APPENDIX A

Exhibits used by the
New Jersey
Legislative Select Committee on Investigation
at the May 20, 2014
Committee Meeting
Tab 1
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers@...]
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2012 8:45 PM
To: Pete Sheridan
Subject: Initial Budget thoughts

Tier 1
Pete Masse, North Arlington (D)
Joe DeSalvo, Rutherford (R)
Paul Tomasko, Alpine (D)
Steve Santola, Livingston (D)
Peter Hughes, Glen Ridge (D)
Joe DiVincenzo
Kathe Donovan
Passaic Freeholder Pat Lepore (D)

Tier 2
Dawn Zimmer, Hoboken (D)
Mark Sokolich, Fort Lee (D)
Rich LaBarbiera, Paramus (D)
Al Santos, Kearny (D)
James Dodd, Dover (D) - possible tier 1 - signed on publicly to sick leave
Tab 2
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Pete Sheridan
Subject: Fort Lee List

All with a guest
Mayor Mark Sokolich
Councilman Jan Goldberg
Board of Education President Arthur Levine
Superintendent Steven Engravelle
Allen Keller - Soccer League
Paige Soltano - Library Board of Trustees
Nelson Paige - Chairman of Fort Lee Film Commission
Tab 3
All,

Attached is the narrative for the week that was.

-Chris
Central Region

Action Items

- Identify t1000 contacts where missing
  - Updating old-ongoing
- New Brunswick Town Hall
  - Waiting for venue selection
    - Meetings Monday w/Brandon
- Build Edison Game List
  - Phone calls made- No response
    - May have to look for replacements
- World Trade Center Tour list
  - Continue to work with Mayor for final list
- Town Hall Venue Options
  - Ongoing
- Update Mayor contacts and changes
  - Ongoing
- WTC Flag Distribution
  - Finish Middlesex next week
    - Ongoing
    - Scheduling conflicts continue to change original plan
- Izod Center
  - Waiting for names to come in. Received some- assured they will all come together.

Personal Priorities/Goals

- Franklin Housing Authority
  - Name submitted
    - Now trying to get resume
- Spend day in Burlington
  - Meet with key Mayors
- Strengthen relationships where needed
  - Burlington/Union

Upcoming events in region

- Newark Event- Wednesday, February 1, 2012 (7PM)
- New Brunswick Town Hall- Thursday, February 2, 2012 (10AM)
- Funeral Service for Cpl. Reinhard- Saturday, February 4, 2012

Meetings this week

- Monroe
  - Flag drop off
- Piscataway
  - Flag drop off - VFW
- East Brunswick
  - Flag drop off
- Schedule meetings with Brandon for New Brunswick.
  - Monday

Events postponed for a later date
- All DMAV Events

Political Narrative:
- In speaking with Assemblywoman Simon, she is ready to hit the ground running and wants to be able to work with our office to really move things because of the expected primary in November.
- Somerset County
  - Chairman is happy with the way things worked out and is just anticipating a tough primary now.
  - Sheriff Provenzano asked what he can start doing for us and wants to gear up for next year.
  - Freeholder Walsh said there have been no issues among the Freeholder Board and politically everyone is in line.

- Middlesex County
  - Everyone seems to be promising the same thing for ‘13. Mayor Anesh believes that the trend of Republican strong holds will gain strength come November.
  - I would like to sit down with the Middlesex director to go over some holes between different peoples plans.

Office Narratives:
- The 9/11 steel that we made calls for have gone from positive to negative. We had a lot of excited people that are now upset we have no answers for them and it has been almost a month.
  - How big is the piece
  - When can we get it
- Sayreville
  - Made DEP call to Fran - Seemed to work
    - Will follow up early next week to see where she stands
- Burlington Outreach
  - Most mayors saying the same thing - "No big issues but we need to hear some budget numbers soon"
- Hillsborough
  - New mayor wants to talk to someone about consolidation
    - Has made big improvements and wants to go a step further
Southern Region

Action Items

- Buena Housing Authority
  o I have spoken to the Chairman and reminded him of the urgency in getting this done.

- Complete elected official database with Interns—Update
  o We are ready to make calls starting Monday

- Complete senior outreach to county contacts to set up January meetings
  o Have worked with Regionals to find out which counties we are making together and began scheduling my region.
  o Working on Friday, 1/27, to set up meetings during flag distribution

- Complete plan for Medical Marijuana—Friday ½
  o Waiting on Approval, Mayor Mount called during the week to complain this has not occurred

- Work on answer for Mayor Fressola on Veteran Group Homes.

- Finish the action items for Pete on WTC Flags and Town Hall locations
  o Scheduled the Tuesday meetings on the road.
    ▪ These meetings replace last Tuesday, which was canceled due to WTC tour.

Personal Priorities/Goals

- Create travel calendar for road days with Mayors/Freeholders in region after approval of plan—this will be completed with the completion of the Flag project

- Database council contacts—In Spreadsheet interns are working on and nearing a point to begin calling town halls

- Use contacts and election results to see if there are any T100 towns that trended towards Democrats more than usual in the last election and find the reason (ex. EHT having such a small margin for Polistina)
  o Have election results now and will be looking at T100 trends for next week
    ▪ Had results for 2009, compiled 2011 this week.

- Per senior outreach plan outline, work with NJGOP to find pockets of non-Democratic seniors to boost 3:4 and 4:4 numbers in that age range
  o Still need to work on this project

CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED
Upcoming events in region

- **Tuesday, January 31**
  - Flag Distribution and Senior Meeting
    - Manalapan, Freehold, Jackson, Howell, Marlboro
    - Trying to confirm meeting with Monmouth County Senior leader for afternoon
- **Friday, February 3rd**
  - Flag Distribution
    - Princeton, East Windsor, West Windsor, Hamilton
    - Trying to confirm Mercer Senior Director meeting for the afternoon.

Meetings this week

- **Tuesday, January 24th**
  - World Trade Center Tour with Middletown
    - Re-cap submitted.

Political Narratives

- There are two outstanding issues for Chairmen Gilmore and Davis that I will work with Pete and Christina to get answers on. Chairman Gilmore has questions about his clerk for the Tax Board, and Chairman Davis questions on whether the state will be doing health boards that mirror other states efforts.

Office Narratives

- Janet Longo, Jackson Tea Party, sent me an invitation on Thursday evening for someone from our office to come and just listen to the Agenda 21 presentation to their group.
- Working on the Medical Marijuana issues for Mayor Lori Sue Mount.
- I have been in contact with O'Keefe and Christina with Ag to get this meeting rolling.
- The folks from Middletown were very grateful for the WTC tour and have sent me personal messages on Facebook and Email thanking our office for the event.
- Helped with the Vineland town hall this week, which went very smoothly, and the recap has been submitted.
- Working with Mayor McCullough to solve an issue given to our office from the Lt. Governor.
Northern Region

Action Items

- Continue to identify $1000 leaders
  - Ongoing

- Town Hall venue project
  - Developing venues for
    - Belleville
    - West Milford
    - Teaneck

- Rutherford Game List
  - Currently have 12 confirmed attendees

- Fort Lee Game List
  - Submitted - currently pending approval

- Update 2012 elected officials list with new Mayors
  - Complete

- Arrange meetings to develop Korean contacts in Fort Lee area
  - Arranging meetings with
    - Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich
    - Fort Lee Councilman Jan Goldberg
    - Ester Chung - works with Asian outreach for Bergen County
    - Jeanne Baratta - Chief of Staff to Kathe Donovan

- Port Authority Flag Delivery Plan
  - Delivered
    - Essex County
    - Secaucus
    - Harrison
    - 44 left to deliver
  - Planned for week of 1/30/2012 (pending availability of recipients)
    - Fort Lee
    - Teaneck
    - Bergen County
    - Fair Lawn
    - Chatham Boro
    - Livingston
    - Millburn
    - West Orange
    - Belleville
    - Newark
    - Nutley
Montclair

**Personal Priorities/Goals**
- Korean pocket population development
- Establish a relationship with new mayors
  - Beginning with new top 100

**Upcoming events in region**
- February 1 - Governor - Realogy Groundbreaking
- February 2 - Lt. Governor - Port Authority

**Meetings this week**
- January 30 - Fort Lee Elected Officials
- January 30 - Bergen County Asian Community Contacts
- Flag Drops offs

**Events postponed for a later date**
- Veteran's Day event and visit

**Political Narratives**
- Hudson County
  - Sandy Cunningham - Jersey City
    - While conversing with Senator Brian Stack and his chief of staff Mark Albiez, they told me that they don't believe that Sandy Cunningham will run for Mayor of Jersey City
    - They seem to be the only two of this mind set
    - Mayor Felix Roque has committed to helping Cunningham raise money for her campaign if she chooses to run
  - During my conversation with Stack and Albiez, Stack mentioned that he thinks the Governor should do more off-year mailing to tout his accomplishments such as the Bayonne bridge and other infrastructure improvements that have been long talked about but are now finally seeing action
- Morris County
  - LD26 Convention
    - Overall the convention was more cordial than anticipated, really with just Larry Casha and his supporters in a state of shock and dismay (as if they truly didn’t expect the result)
- Parsippany Councilman John Cesaro and former West Milford Councilwoman Marilyn Lichtenberg nominated and seconded the nomination of Betty Lou DeCroce.
- Freeholder John Murphy had the floor yielded to him by a county committee member in order to present a speech in support of Larry Casha.
- Bill Eames and his campaign "infrastructure" backed Casha fervently (including King Penna who claimed "there's always a primary").
- Despite the Eames crew and a couple of other fervent supporters, most of even Casha's backers felt a primary would be unnecessary.
  - I had the chance to talk to John Murphy at the convention and he said that as of right now he's leaning against running for re-election.
  - He said not to be surprised if he ends up running at the end of it all, but that at this current moment he doesn't feel he will do it.

**Office Narratives**

- **Roque**
  - He was beyond disappointed by the charter school application decision yet seemed to have his spirits lifted when I mentioned that we could arrange for DoE representatives to discuss the process for re-application with him.
  - He has followed up on REAP funding and the feasibility of using it for tax relief in this year's budget (WNY is on an annual budget cycle).
  - He has been in touch with LGS Director Tom Neff on the issue but he (along with Mayor Turner who advises Roque) feel that Neff is looking at direction from the front office in regards to clarification on municipal aid plans for the FY2013 budget.

- **Passaic County Freeholder TJ Best**
  - TJ Best is the new freeholder in Passaic County.
  - I spoke with him for awhile at the NJAC Re-organization meeting.
  - He claims that Jeff Jones' popularity has taken such a hit that nearly all of his political capital is gone and that it is almost a sure bet that he will lose re-election.

- **Morris Plains Mayor Frank Druetzler**
  - Wanted to know when DOT's annual grants were to be announced.

- **Guttenberg**
  - Mayor Gerry Drasheff has reached out asking for assistance with pushing SDA and DCA to assist with a pending shared service agreement between the Town of Guttenberg and the School Board in regards to funding the local commitment of and SDA grant.
Christina has looked into the issue and has gathered some information

- Jersey City
  - Jose Arango reached out and asked that we contact the JC Business Administrator on an issue involving the closing of an STD clinic within the city
  - They have been in touch with Health Department representatives on the issue
  - Bob Schwamburg is now helping out as well
  - I reached out to the business administrator to let him know that we were looking into and working on the issue

- African American events
  - The community leader and business leader events had remarkable feedback
    - Some long-time Democrats claiming that they wanted to do everything they could to help the Governor in re-election and to get his message out now
    - Some in the business community even asked when the campaign account would be opened so that they could donate
    - For next week’s African American breakfast, Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins gave a lukewarm response
      - This came through his secretary, however, and I’ll likely call him directly on it to gauge his actual response
    - Several Mayors seemed excited about the Urban mayors meeting with DCA Commissioner Constable
      - It would be good to be kept in the loop for when that is rescheduled

- Teaneck Councilman Elie Katz reached out requesting a town hall meeting in Teaneck whenever we would like one

- Teaneck Mayor Peter Rustin claimed that the police unions have fostered the fear in the rank and file which is contributing to many of the retirements of officers throughout the state
  - I had to clarify for the Mayor as well that the Governor’s sick leave reforms did not prevent previously accrued time from being cashed out
  - The Mayor believes that many of these retirements are caused by a misunderstanding of the proposed reforms

- Teaneck Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin nominated an NJ Hero
  - He nominated a long time, African American teacher from the school who was active during the civil rights movement
Western Region

Action Items

- Julie Acton Solar Panel Question
  - Pete is currently working on this issue.

- Freeholder Dale Cross TIGER Rail Issue
  - Pete is currently looking into this issue.

- Mayor Kathy Ireland PILOT funding for Maurice River prisons issues
  - Pete is currently looking into this issue with Treasury.

- Freeholders Wallace and Nestore Probation Issue
  - Pete is currently looking into this issue.

- Mayor Suzanne Walters Library Issue
  - DEP is currently working on this issue. I will check in with Mayor Walters periodically to make sure everything is going well.

- Mayor Ray Chintall Sunoco Lawsuit Issue
  - Pete/Christina are currently looking into this issue with DEP.

- Mayor William Pikolycky Grant Application Inquiry
  - Pete is currently looking into this issue with DOT

- State Committeeman Steve Gillian Brewery Issue
  - Pete is currently looking into this issue.

- World Trade Center Tour Invite list
  - Pushed back due to schedule next week.

- World Trade Center Steel Beam Calls
  - Complete.

- Extend invitations to the rescheduled State of the State
  - Complete; So far, the only 2 that cannot attend are Mayor Albert Kelly (who has a City Council meeting) and Chairman Mike Donohue (has 2 town council meetings he needs to be at)
• Rebuild Voorhees Town Hall
  o Blasted the email out to my contacts and touched base with my local contacts who I met with last week and T1K contacts in Cherry Hill. As of 6:00pm Thursday, we have 114 RSVPs without guests, 201 with guests. I am confident we will be able to reach the level we were at when we cancelled it for this week (we were at 327 when we cancelled).

• Submit my 3 weekly Town Hall POC/venue lists to Pete
  o In progress. This week I will be submitting Vineland, Readington, and Monroe Twp (Gloucester County).

Personal Priorities/Goals

• Update Master Elected Officials Document
  Currently in progress.

• Create a 2012 roadmap for myself
  o Will focus on this after the State of the State and Town Hall. I plan on spending some time getting to know the new Mayors in my T100 towns (Raritan, Readington, West Deptford) through in-person meetings, spending more time with target Dem Mayors, and reconnecting with non-T100 Mayors and some Freeholders who haven't gotten a ton of attention. In addition, I plan on spending time with Autism contacts in all 21 counties if possible.

• Sort interns into “interest areas”
  o Place interns into the front and center on specific projects that appeal to their individual interests to produce the best results. While they will all be working on the ongoing projects, knowing what each of them holds an interest in will allow me to keep them interested and creating the best work product for the good of the office.

Upcoming events in region
• Tuesday, January 17th – State of the State
• Wednesday, January 18th – Voorhees Town Hall
• Thursday, January 19th – LD16 Convention

Meetings this week
• None at this time
Events postponed for a later date
• Governor - Salem County Town Hall
• Governor - Wildwood Boardwalk/Beach stop
• Governor - Elmer Hospital Visit

Political Narratives
• Committeeman John King (R, Raritan) let me know that he will be securing the party backing to take out Freeholder Ron Sworen (R, Hunterdon County) this year as his “consolation prize for LD16.” He asked that when he becomes the official candidate that the Governor consider events with him and his assumed running mate, Freeholder Matt Holt.
• Warren County’s Freeholders are locked in a battle over leadership assignments; Freeholder Director Everett Chamberlain is accused by Freeholder Jason Sarnoski of keeping him from being Freeholder Deputy Director due to exposing issues with the Pollution Control Financing Authority. Freeholder Chamberlain will be challenged in his primary this year by Sen. Doherty ally and former Chief of Staff/running mate Ed Smith, who is not liked by many of our friends in Warren County and who would probably be severely to the right of the Governor on a number of issues.
• Committeewoman Donna Simon seems to be on track to winning the LD16 Assembly seat, and has been rolling out some key endorsements in her race (including that of Pete Biondi’s widow). Bill Spadea has kept-up vicious attacks against Donna, basically implying that he is the only one who can carry the Christie agenda in the legislature. Luckily, Donna has the endorsements of the party Chairmen and a majority of elected officials in the District. I plan on attending the convention on December 19th.

Office Narratives
• Elected official/constituency action items listed above
Tab 13
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers@...]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:37 PM
To: Pete Sheridan; Bridget Kelly
Subject: Flag recaps

Date: 1/30/2012
Events: Flag Drop Offs for Bergen County/Fair Lawn/Teaneck/Fort Lee
Notes:

Bergen County
County Executive Donovan was thrilled (literally gasped when she saw it) to be presented with the flag, noting that she would have it encased and displayed along with the certificate and letter from the Governor. Given her past role with the Port Authority, it was an especially personal item for her as well.

Fair Lawn
Fair Lawn Mayor Jeanne Baratta could hardly contain herself with excitement after receiving the flag. She said that she will be sure to make a big issue out of it at the next council meeting, noting that the Governor has shown continued care and commitment to Fair Lawn and that this is just the latest example.

Teaneck
Mayor Hameeduddin surprised me (yet it was unsurprising) by having a member of the Teaneck Patch present at the municipal building when I arrived. The Mayor wanted to have a picture of the flag being presented taken so that he could show that the administration cares for Teaneck (and to improve his image as someone with connections throughout the state). I made sure that the Patch reporter knew I didn't speak on the record and simple allowed the Mayor to talk, however, it is likely that there will be a picture of myself and the Mayor by the municipal building. The Mayor was very appreciative of the flag, however, and would like to have it flown in front of the municipal building during special occasions.

**We should probably develop a policy as to the procedure for these flags, given that I am sure future elected officials will also invite members of the press for these events**

Fort Lee
Mayor Sokolich commented, "Matt, you have no idea how much these kind of things mean to us." To say the least, he was thrilled. He said he will mention it at the next council meeting and that he would like to display the flag with their September 11 Memorial and utilize the flag during special ceremonies in town.
Tab 25
Central Region

Action Items

- Finish flag distribution:
  - Somerset County: Wednesday
  - Friday: Finish other locations if scheduling permits
- T1K List
  - Cleaned up, Now have to fill in all the holes that were created from deleting unresponsive/poor choices
- Outreach to veteran community
  - Sit down with DMAVA to discuss Memorial Day events
    - See what is important to them and any ideas they have for the Governor’s Office
  - Go through college veterans contacts and compile into one list (Ongoing)
  - Break down all new contacts and add to original master veterans list (Ongoing)
- Review all veteran requests
  - Proclamations- Sons of American Legion request (Completed)
  - Followups from breakfast- Still waiting for direction on how to communicate with the people the Governor promised meetings with (waiting for response)
  - Issues and concerns
    - Veterans are asking when the Governor is going to make a statement and Executive order for the NJ Marine that was KIA in Afghanistan

Personal Priorities/Goals

- Fill Housing Authorities (calling through multiple sources because no one has given solid answers)
  - Carteret- Submitted
  - Franklin- Calling Mayor and Chairman
  - Florence- Mayor and Chairman
  - New Brunswick- Hold
  - Sayreville- Hold
  - Plainfield- called Chairman (Will follow up)
- Update all lists
  - Once Interns are back from break-
    - Contact lists
    - Town Hall lists-Completed
    - Town Hall venue options- Ongoing
    - Veteran contacts (Statewide update)
    - Senior lists for Stark
    - Civic groups for John
Upcoming events in region

- Prudential Veteran event- Tuesday, 10AM
- Newark Game- April 16th (Current National Guard/Veterans)

Meetings this week:

- Trying to schedule Somerset County meetings

Events postponed for a later date:

- Meeting with Mayor Keenan (Mt. Laurel)

Political Narrative:

- Union County-
  - David Larsen (Congressional candidate) has been attacking the establishment because he believed the conventions were not run smoothly. Chairman Morin went on the offensive because he submitted Larsen's name for consideration because no one would at the convention. Overall, the convention ran smoothly and there were no major issues. There were roughly 200-300 people in attendance. Senator Doherty spoke on behalf of Ron Paul.

- Middlesex
  - The Middlesex convention was very large. There were over 400 people in attendance. I arrived late because I was coming from the Union convention. The Middlesex convention was much more energized than the Union convention. I was told that focus this year will be on: Sayreville, South Amboy, South River, East Brunswick, and the Freeholder candidates. Sam Khan and Dr. Daley received the committee votes. Chairman Thompson has shown a lot of confidence with Sam Khan this year and energizing the Asian community.
  - South Plainfield is concerned that they are going to lose one or both of their council seats in this coming election. Dick Frank is their weakest councilman because he was appointed to fill the mayors vacant seat. He has only been in office less than a year.

- Somerset-
  - Have not had the opportunity to focus on Somerset yet. This will be a focus next week.

- Burlington-
- The major issue right now with political impact is the Mayor of Medford stirring up issues about the referendum. I will be tracking this carefully and also reaching out to contacts to get more information.

**Office Narratives -**

- **Medford:** This issue is the only major issue in Burlington county right now. The hardest part about it is the Mayor did not ask for any help nor did he express a solution to the problem. He wants to be able to explain to the Governor why the Medford referendum is different from the other towns and why they should not be lumped in with the other two.

- **Clark:**
  - The mayor wants the Governor to get involved with a DEP lawsuit that has been going on for years. Currently it has cost Clark over $40,000 and the newest DEP request will cost over $100,000. There is no end in sight and the mayors of each town want to know if the Governor can get involved since he was not a part of the original issue. The lawsuit started over 5 years ago with a previous administrations DEP. (CG working on it)

- **Hillside:**
  - Mayor Menza has called about a new appointment issue. The council wants to make a full time appointment for the township Building manager. The Mayor does not believe the council has this power and reached out to DCA. He was told he would receive a letter stating that only the Mayor has that power. He is trying to get this letter because he feels it will settle multiple issues in town. Currently Christina is working on this.

- **Franklin/Bedminster:**
  - Trying to work closely with the contacts about the WTC steel. With the LG going to both locations, I am trying to loop in as many people as possible in order to make sure the events run smoothly even though we are not planning them. I will be contacting mayors today about it.
Southern Region

**Action Items**

- **Buena Housing Authority**
  - Robert Delano is going to be sending us his resume by Wednesday of next week.

- **Trenton Housing Authority**
  - Contacted Chairman Friend on 3/21 and 3/30

- **Hightstown Housing Authority**
  - Contacted Chairman Friend on 3/21 and 3/30

- Input the data received during the town hall of all contact information for all Ocean County elected officials, including council.

- **Complete senior outreach to county contacts to set up March/April Meetings**
  - Each Regional is required to find their T100 Senior Leaders as outreach is conducted per Pete’s instructions.
  - Progress is being made on this project and a tracker is being completed.

- **Complete plan for Medical Marijuana—Friday %**
  - Waiting on dates from Council for a day full of meetings

- **Finalize dates for Princeton flag distribution**

**Personal Priorities/Goals**

- Use contacts and election results to see if there are any T100 towns that trended towards Democrats more than usual in the last election and find the reason (ex. EHT having such a small margin for Polistina)
  - Have election results now and will be looking at T100 trends for next week
  - Had results for 2009, compiled 2011 this week.

- Per senior outreach plan outline, work with NJGOP to find pockets of non-Democratic seniors to boost 3:4 and 4:4 numbers in that age range
  - Once this list has been gone through, I will work with the interns to start breaking down by county and T100 towns.
  - We now have Andrew Tomalessio working on databasing all 55+ Communities and will then tackle the breakdown of the Senior VV list into T100 and key towns.

**Upcoming events in region**

- **Monday, April 2nd**
  - LG at Revel for Champagne Toast

- **Thursday, April 5th**
  - LG to Stockton College for Bill signing.

**Meetings this week**
• Monday, March 26th
  o Atlantic City Revel Announcement
    • Great meeting with the elected officials at this event. Recap submitted
  o Meetings on the road for the town hall with community leaders and elected officials. Recap submitted.
• Friday, March 30th
  o Lt. Governor event with NAMI in Ocean County.

Political Narratives

• Most political activity in the region seems very quiet.
• Ocean County GOP and local clubs in Manchester, Jackson, Brick, and Toms River did an outstanding job of getting the word out on the Governor's Town Hall. Each of their chairs and club presidents were in constant contact with either Chris Filicello or me.

Office Narratives

• The town hall had a great response for most elected officials in Ocean County, who were present for the Lt. Governor's speech at NAMI in Toms River. Of course the exception to this was Mayor Vince Barella of Point Beach, who took issue with the Governor's concern for the businesses in Point that will suffer from the mayors planned "fees" to stay open past 12pm.
• Mayor Tony Fiore did have his editorial board, which I would like to find the whole video on before passing judgement. Based on what was said, he toned down the leagues preferred rhetoric, after speaking with our staff, but he did not get to the key points we asked him to deliver.
• The Lt. Governor's event in Ocean County went very well, with the exception of a Councilman and Reverend from Surf City, who seemed persistent on delivering digs to the Administration and Legislature, which the LG vented about upon her departure from the room.
Northern Region

Action Items

- Zimmer Mayor Invite Game
  - Complete
- Port Authority Flag Delivery Plan
  - Delivered
    - Essex County
    - Secaucus
    - Harrison
    - Fort Lee
    - Teaneck
    - Bergen County
    - Fair Lawn
    - Hoboken
    - Jersey City
    - Kearny
    - Belleville
    - Union City
    - West New York
    - Livingston
    - Livingston Jewish War Veteran's
    - Livingston American Legion Post #201
    - Ridgewood
    - Glen Rock
    - Wayne
    - Paramus
    - Hackensack
    - Livingston VFW
    - Morristown
    - Morris Plains
    - Morris Township
    - Parsippany
    - Montville
    - Nutley
    - West Orange
    - Millburn
    - Clifton
    - Montclair
    - Rutherford
    - 33 flags delivered
    - 18 flags left
  - Scheduling at least ten flag drop offs for the upcoming week

- Secaucus Housing Authority
  - Mayor Gonnelli says he will submit a name shortly
• Have followed up daily – he is still finalizing
  • Guttenberg Housing Authority
    o Mayor Drasheff says he will submit a name shortly
    o Have followed up daily – he has a name in mind, asking the individual if they are interested
  • Jersey City Housing Authority
    o Jose Arango will provide a name and resume
  • T100 Senior Outreach Development
    o Completed contacting friendly t100 Mayors
    - Will now call through again to collect information
  • T1K Development
    o Final combing through current T1K list
  • Woodland Park Port Authority Steel Event
    o Confirmed for Tuesday
  • Fort Lee Museum Port Authority Steel Event
    o Have played phone tag with the museum curator
    o Will finalize details immediately
  • Dover Community Development Grant Event
    o Date/Time confirmed with Mayor James Dodd (D) and he is excited to host the Lt. Governor

**Personal Priorities/Goals**

- Review and update top 1000 list
- Deliver at least ten more Port Authority flags
- Continue to build Korean and Asian contacts
- Follow up on T100 Senior Contact development

**Upcoming events in region**

- Governor - NJ Hispanic Bar Association Keynote - Jersey City - Saturday
- Lieutenant Governor - Community Development Grant Announcement in Dover - Wednesday
- Lieutenant Governor - Port Authority Check Presentation - Woodland Park - Tuesday

**Meetings this week**

- Flag Drop Offs - TBD

CONFFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED

Mowers-000548
Events postponed for a later date

- Veteran’s Day event and visit

Political Narratives

- Bergen County
  - Mayor Mark Sokolich said that the Korean activists in town are “in an uproar” over the failure of Phil Kwon’s Supreme Court nomination and that the Democrats refusal to confirm has “polarized” the Korean community

- Passaic County
  - Freeholder Ed O’Connell (who is up for re-election this year) has noted that he will likely put in a request for appearance by the Governor in Passaic County this year (for fundraising and retail help) and also expressed excitement at a unified party for the first year in many

- Hudson County
  - The campaign for Maria Karczewski for Congress will allow us to develop an understanding of the activists and volunteers in Bayonne and will likely enable us to keep the volunteer infrastructure intact for the re-election campaign.
  - The HCDO has informed Mayor Zimmer that they will not be placing some of her county committee members on the party line, even though they have worked to collect signatures for Senator Menendez who will, of course, run on the line
    - The HCDO has also rejected WNY Mayor Felix Roque’s entire slate for county committee
  - Assemblyman Ruben Ramos has begun to tell individuals that he will run for Mayor against Dawn Zimmer
  - Hudson County operatives have stated that they do not think Senator Sandra Cunningham will run for Mayor of Jersey City

- Morris County
  - The campaign for freeholder remains scatter shot right now with most activists and insiders believing that Freeholder Chegwidden and Parsippany Councilman John Cesaro the most likely to win, yet differing opinions on who will win the third slot
    - Candidates currently include
      - Freeholder Bill Chegwidden
      - Freeholder Gene Feyl
      - Parsippany Councilman John Cesaro
      - Morristown Councilwoman Alison Deeb
      - Former Mount Olive Mayor David Scapicchio
      - Former Washington Township Mayor John Krickus
- State OIT Employee and Young Republican activist Jeremy Jedynak
- Florham Park Councilman Charles Germershausen

There seems to be concern among most GOP elected officials in Morris Township over the possibility of losing additional seats because of the Honeywell redevelopment plan.

Local Democrats picked up one seat last year using the issue to their advantage, and will try to do so again this year.

Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura said that he has two challengers for Sheriff in the primary: one running on the line with Senator Nia Gill and the other currently running on their own.

**Office Narratives**

- Harrison Mayor Ray McDonough (D) was very appreciative of the Port Authority's action to redevelop the Harrison PATH station and said, "please send mine and Harrison's love to the Governor".

- Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty publicly praised the Governor for the Port Authority flag and the DOT funding during the most recent council meeting:

  "We're grateful to the governor for awarding us the money." Mayor Tim Dougherty said. (Morristown Patch)

- West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi has been working with LGS to develop approved system of bonding for sick leave in order to ensure coverage of payments.

- Ridgefield Park Mayor George Fosdick expressed disappointment at the failure of the Phil Kwon nomination while we discussed other topics.
Western Region

Action Items

- Set up face to face meetings with all GOP county chairs
- Fill Housing Authority Vacancies
  - Cape May City
    - Chairman Donohue said he would look into it and have a name for me within a couple of weeks
  - Camden City
    - name submitted - Redd's COS already asked how soon we can expect to know if their nominee was added.
  - Penns Grove
    - I asked Freeholder Director Acton for a name, she said she needed more time to find someone

- WTC Steel Events
  - Reached out to John Gorinan from the Annandale fire company
    - Relayed to him who his POC in the PA is.
      - Have put follow up call into him to see what the status is, haven't heard back

- Finish introducing myself to all mayors and Freeholders in my region
  - I have spoken to almost all of the Mayors and Freeholders. There are still 29 I haven't heard back from
    - All have received at minimum a call or email from me (emails were only sent when phone numbers were not available).

- Briefings
  - Submitted briefing for the LG events in Bridgeton and Pittsgrove Monday.
    - waiting to here if they need to be updated
  - will submit the briefing for the LG in Hackettstown by COB Monday

Personal Priorities/Goals

- Start traveling the district, meeting with elected officials and influential citizens
- Get a better grasp on town hall venue project and T 1K list
  - I started to update the T1K list, but I feel like i need to sit down w/ Vinny and go over in detail why these people are on, and whom, if anyone, should be removed or replaced
I am not where I want to be in terms of knowing the political landscape and being involved.
  
  - In order to change this I have made more of an effort to reach out to county chairmen and other politically active citizens in the counties I represent.
  - I hope to speak to all of my county chairs at least once a week (if not more) and hopefully get a chance to meet in person at least once a month

Upcoming events in region

- LG in Bridgeton and Pittsgrove on Monday, 4/2
- LG in Hackettstown on Wednesday, 4/4
- Newark Meeting 4/10

Meetings this week

- Staffed the LG @ Cumberland County College
- Newark Meeting 3/26 - Warren County
- Met with Woodbine Mayor William Pikolycky 3/28
- Met with Dennis Twp Mayor Glembocki 3/28
- Attended Cape May County GOP Convention 3/28
- Attended Hunterdon County GOP Convention 3/29

Events postponed for a later date

- 3/28 Readingtown Newark Meeting

Political Narratives

- Camden County
  - Rutgers-Camden Rowan Merger
    - Camden City mayor Dana Redd has remained neutral on this issue.
    - I have been monitoring the news and will make sure to keep everyone updated if anything changes

- Hunterdon County
  - No big surprises at last night’s convention
    - Rep. Lance was the only contested nomination and he won easily
  
    - I was hoping to meet Mayors Elbert (Raritan) and Aurierria (Readington), but neither were at last night’s event
- Freeholder Matt Holt and Committeeman received the nominations for the two Freeholder seats up for reelection in 2012
  - Freeholder Ron Sworen was not present - still unclear if he intends to run for reelection

**Cape May County**

No surprises at the convention - only contested race was County Surrogate Freeholder Deputy Director Susan Sheppard won easily

**Office Narratives**

- **Woodbine**
  - Informed Mayor of their DOT Aviation Grants, he was very pleased
  - Has an issue regarding the state takeover of Woodbine Developmental Center
    - This lax admission standards will endanger his residents

- **Washington Twp**
  - Mayor Wallace is very concerned with the fuel spill cleanup. With fishing and tourism season starting she fears she will not able to keep people out of the polluted water. She is in contact with DEP, but wanted to make me aware.

- **Dennis Twp** Mayor Glenbokie is upset because he did not receive any DOT funding
  - I explained to him the situation about less funds to go around - and encouraged him to apply for LAIF funds

- **DCA Urban Demo Calls** were great - everyone was happy and said this would make their cities and towns safer for all residents

- **Working on setting up the Small Cities Grants events for Monday**
Tab 27
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers@...]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Pete Sheridan
Subject: Fort Lee

For a Fort Lee Drumthwacket breakfast we would allocate 10 (pre-approved) invitations to Mayor Mark Sokolich, Councilman Jan Goldberg, Board of Education President Art Levine, and five to Steve Engravalle. We will then utilize an additional 15 invitations for top 1000/additional elected officials and community activists. Given that leaders in this town have been reliably supportive (and publicly so) it would be a good chance to capitalize on those relationships in order to dig a level deeper in the community while cementing the relationships we have already developed.
Tab 32
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers@...]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 2:46 PM
To: Pete Sheridan
Subject: Recaps

Date: 5/18/12
Event: Meeting with Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich
Notes: The meeting was brief because the Mayor had a work emergency pop up right beforehand that demanded some of his attention, however, it was good to touch base with him again. The biggest project on deck is still the Hudson lights development (a billion dollar development project) and it is still only in the progress of the approval process. The Mayor said that because the project is so large and he's been so passionate about trying to get it moving (it's been discussed for decades), some residents (the same ones that complain about everything) are now accusing him of having a personal stake in the project.

Date: 5/18/12
Event: Meeting/Flag Drop off with North Arlington Mayor Peter Massa
Notes: Mayor Massa and I spoke at length about the town, how it's changed and where it could be going. We also spoke about his background in politics and how he got involved (over the EnCap deal - which he opposed). He also has several Republican "operatives" working with him - Thom Ammirato and Rick Shafman - despite the fact that he's a Democrat. He still performs background checks part time for the waterfront commission. He clearly has an affinity for the Governor because of his time as US Attorney (the Mayor helped on some cases). Massa has also supported local Republicans (long ago). While he is older now, and seemingly less political, I think there may be a chance we can win his endorsement next year due to those two things.
Tab 33
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers@park.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 8:51 AM
To: Pete Sheridan
Subject: Politically Key Mayor/Electeds

Bettina Bieri - West Milford
Jon Dunleavy - Bloomingdale
Chris Vergano - Wayne
Jim Anzaldi - Clifton
James Barberio - Parsippany
Scott Eveland - Florham Park
Stephen Santola/Livingston Council - Livingston
Robert Parisi - West Orange
Al Santos - Kearny
Mike Gonnelli - Secaucus
Dawn Zimmer - Hoboken
Brian Stack - Union City
Jerry Healy/Mark Smith/Traditional Hudson
Mark Sokolich - Fort Lee
Teaneck Council
Rich LaBarbera - Paramus
Joe DeSalvo - Rutherford
Jeanne Baratta/Ed Trawinski - Fair Lawn
Tab 34
To: Mayor
Subject: Good news
May 25, 2012

The Honorable David Samson
Chairman, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10003

Dear Chairman Samson:

In accordance with the October 2009 action of the Board of Commissioners of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the “Port Authority”), which increased the provision for appropriate projects in the State of New Jersey (“Project Funds”) to $32.2 million, I am writing to request that the Port Authority authorize funding from New Jersey Project Development funds for the following purpose:

**Borough of Fort Lee**

The sum of $162,000 to the Borough of Fort Lee to be used for the municipality’s purchase of shuttle bus vehicles to provide resident access to trans-Hudson ferry service located in Edgewater, NJ and transport to the George Washington Bridge Bus Station in New York City.

I appreciate the Port Authority’s assistance with this important initiative and look forward to continuing to work with the agency on the transportation issues of significance to the region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Christie
Governor
Tab 35
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers@example.com]
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2012 11:24 AM
To: Pete Sheridan

Travel & Meetings Conducted:
- Garfield re-organization meeting
- Meeting with Garfield VFW – P.A. Flag Drop Off
- Meeting with Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich
- Meeting with Korean leader David Yi
- Meeting with Ji Ho Choi, President, Pan-American Taekwondo Association

Metrics:

Governor's Reading File Calls:
Town Called: Fair Lawn
Calls Attempted: 1
Spoke to: 0
Messages Left: 1
Notable Comments / Feedback: None

Top 100 Mayors (all T100 Mayors):
Calls Attempted: 28
Spoke to: 15
Messages Left: 13
Notable Comments / Feedback:
Top 1k Outreach Calls (minimum 30 calls):
Town(s) Targeted: Teaneck, Fort Lee, West Milford
Calls Attempted: 13
Spoke to: 10
Messages Left: 3
Notable Comments / Feedback:

Response Device Return Calls:
Calls Attempted: 0
Spoke to: 0
Messages Left: 0
Notable Comments / Feedback:

County Chairman Calls:
Calls Attempted: 3
Spoke to: 3
Messages Left: 0
Notable Comments / Feedback: Jose Arango believe he has met the requirements to open the charter school that he is a founding member of...and he's trying to quit smoking

Bi-Weekly Email Sent to T1k: (no)

Bi-Weekly Email Sent to T100 Mayor: (no)

Action Items:
-Continue 11k outreach

-Develop July/August action plan for meetings with 11k, elected officials and constituency leaders based on need

-Continue development of extended community organization lists for all top 100 towns

-Distribute final Port Authority flags to Mahwah VFW, West Milford and Chatham Borough

-Develop meeting schedule for senior contacts

Political Narrative:

-GOP Freeholder candidate Peg Wetkins stated her support for the merger of the Sheriff and County Police forces in Bergen County, a move that was instigated by State Senator Gerald Cardinale as a means to force County Executive Katie Donovan's hand on the issue (Cardinale supports the merger, Donovan opposes it)

-Bergen County Freeholder John Driscoll reached out and said that the Freeholder board plans to pass resolutions supporting some of the Governor's initiatives in order to force the Democrats to choose sides between their party and the public – these will include supporting the Governor's tax cut proposal and lambasting the Democrats' program cuts

-Both Frank Calandrelli and Tana Raymond from Garfield continue to attack each other from their long distaste for one another – however they both have said they want to help the Governor (I believe Calandrelli would like to "redeem" himself from his tenure as PVSC Commissioner and for his statement at the re-organization meeting). Tana would like to round up additional Democratic endorsements for the Governor and Lt. Governor in their re-election campaign next year

-Teaneck Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin was selected by the council to serve a second two year term as Mayor – making him Mayor during the re-election campaign

Regional Narrative:

-The Pan-American Taekwondo Association would like the Governor's permission to once again issue the "Governor's Cup" at the annual Garden State Taekwondo competition held in November of each year. This was previously done under Governor Whitman but was discontinued. Ji Ho Choi, the President of the Association, believes this will help motivate additional participants to join the competition which would be beneficial to the program.

-Paramus Administrator Joe D'Arco has been consistently sending updates with locations in need of grass mowing by DOT – he has been in touch with Assistant DOT Commissioner Anthony Attanasio on the issue.

Schedule / Plan for Next Week:

-Lt. Governor's presentation to Paterson Council President Anthony Davis' students

-Flag distribution for West Milford, Chatham Borough and Mahwah VFW
Meeting with Teaneck Mayor Mohamed Hameeduddin (re-scheduled from last week)
Tab 36
Date: 7/6/12
Event: Port Authority flag presentation to Garfield VFW
Notes: I had prepared to meet with Julio Quiles of the Garfield VFW and presented him with a flag from the Port Authority. He had requested this flag after he heard that the Lyndhurst VFW had received one. They were very excited that they could receive such a rare gift. The conversation was not too substantive beyond that outside of the fact that they said they are discussing whether to ask for the steel from the Port Authority at their meeting next week. (There are apparently issues as to whether they will be keeping their location because of declining membership).

Date: 7/6/12
Event: meeting with Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich
Notes: This was just a check in meeting and we kept most of the conversation casual. Two notable issues though. Mayor Sokolich was speaking to Bill Baroni at one point a few months ago and they discussed the creation of additional shuttle routes to bring individuals near the GW Bridge. He then make a joking inquiry as to whether the riders could then be shuttled across the bridge free of charge. Low and behold, Baroni spoke to Sokolich a couple weeks later and said "we're going to do it." Sokolich was caught off guard and later told Baroni that the free shuttle across the bridge could cause issues within town because more riders would want to utilize the shuttle for free across the bridge, there would be issues with verifying residency of the riders, and residents of different sections of town would then complain that they were left out of the shuttle route. We had even reached out to Sokolich as part of standard outreach and told him that the Governor asked the Port Authority to grant the buses for the shuttle service. In the end Baroni agreed with Sokolich about the free service across the bridge. They are still going to utilize the new buses we asked the Port Authority to provide Fort Lee for shuttle service, but they will not offer free service across the bridge. This was kept very close to the vest by Sokolich with only him and the town administrator knowledgeable about it.
Tab 41
From: Pete Sheridan (peteshidan)  
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2012 2:54 PM  
To: Matt Mowers  
Subject: Fwd: Two Options (Middlesex or Bergen/Passiac)

Can you give me 3 different names.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: bridgetannekelly  
Date: December 3, 2012, 2:28:23 PM EST  
To: "Pete Sheridan" <peteshidan>  
Subject: Re: Two Options (Middlesex or Bergen/Passiac)  
Reply-To: bridgetannekelly

Other options are good.  
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Pete Sheridan <peteshidan>  
Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2012 14:27:38 -0500  
To: bridgetannekelly <bridgetannekelly>  
Subject: Re: Two Options (Middlesex or Bergen/Passiac)

Matt continues to believe that these folks are tier 1 possibilities and key influencers. We can yank them. We have some other thoughts too.

Sent from my iPhone


wrote:

Why the 3 from Teaneck always?

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: Pete Sheridan <peteshidan>  
Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2012 14:13:46 -0500  
To: Bridget Kelly <bridgetannekelly>  
Subject: Two Options (Middlesex or Bergen/Passiac)

Middlesex County - Key Electeds & Community Invites

Middlesex Boro Mayor Ronald Dobies +2 (community invites)

South Plainfield Mayor Matthew Anesh +2 (community invites)
Piscataway: 3 11000
Edison: 3 11000
Old Bridge Mayor Owen Henry + 2 (community invites)
Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac +2 (community invites)
South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry
South Plainfield Councilman Derryck White

North Jersey Key Elected Official Game:
Mahwah Mayor Bill LaForet
Oakland Mayor Linda Schwager
Paramus Mayor Rich LaBarbiera
Tenafly Councilman Anthony Barzellato
Tenafly Mayor Peter Rustin
Teaneck Mayor Mohammed Haneeduddin
Teaneck Councilman Yitz Stem
Teaneck Councilman Elie Katz
Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich
Fort Lee Councilman Jan Goldberg
Garfield Deputy Mayor Tana Raymond (she will want to bring someone with her)
Bloomingdale Mayor Jonathan Dunleavy
West Milford Mayor Bettina Bieri
Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi
Wayne Mayor Chris Vergano
Paterson Council President Anthony Davis
Little Falls Mayor Darlene Post
Pompton Lakes Mayor Katie Cole
North Haledon Councilwoman Donna Puglisi
Passaic County Freeholder Elect Hector Lora
From: Pete Sheridan [petesh]n
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 3:04 AM
To: Matt Mowers; Christopher Stark; John Case; Evan Ridley; Richard DeRose
Subject: D Target Outreach
Attachments: Endorsement Summaries.doc

Team -

We have a "green light" to begin trying to secure D target endorsements for the campaign. Again, your participation is voluntary and should be done at appropriate times (morning, evenings & weekends).

I have attached a recap sheet that I would like filled out for each conversation you have with your targets - it is important that we have backup as we move through the process. The campaign is currently working up an official endorsement form for our use - We should get the targets to "sign on dotted line" if possible. We will then continue to work with them through the process (roll-out, public event, press release, etc...)

The list of approved targets is below (slightly changed from your original submissions). These calls can begin ASAP at appropriate times. It is critical that you keep me in the loop as to how these calls go.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

-----------------------
Approved Targets:
Mohammed Hameeduddin (Teaneck)
Mark Sokolich (Fort Lee)
Rich LaBarberia (Paramus)
Bettina Bieri (West Milford)
Ray McDonough (Harrison)
Tony Barzellato (Tenafly)
Tana Raymond (Garfield)
Anthony Davis (Paterson)
Peter Hughes (Glen Ridge)
Bill LaForest (Mahwah)
Fred Taglierini (Aberdeen)
Former Mayor Joe Kuehner (Egg Harbor City)
Jennifer Naughton and the Spring Lake Council
Robert Schroeder (Point Borough)
Mike Beck (Lower)
Michael Blunt (Chesilhurst)
Randy Teague (Haddon Twp)
Albert Kelly (Bridgeton)
Greg Puliti (Committeeaman, Lawrence)
Richard Gerbounka (Linden)
Joe Menza (Hillsdale)
Endorsement Call / Meeting Summary Sheet:

IGA Staffer:
Democrat Target:
Phone / Meeting:
Participants:
Location (if applicable):
Date / Time:

______________________________

Summary of Conversation:

______________________________

Next Steps:

______________________________

Conditions of Endorsement (if applicable):

______________________________

Agreed to Sign Endorsement Form:
We approved this mths ago (he just sent this out). Hope he remembers.

Fort Lee shuttle service to NY-bound ferry expanded  
Friday, February 1, 2013  
BY  
Svetlana Shkolnikova/Staff Writer  
Fort Lee Suburbanite  
Print |  
E-mail | A new agreement between  

Fort Lee and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will allow the borough to add a second shuttle route to the  
Edgewater ferry this month, offering two free buses to commuters near Anderson Avenue.  

Bernadette Marcinia/Staff Photographer  
Buy this photo | An Agreement between Fort Lee and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey adds a second shuttle route to the Edgewater ferry.  

The popular shuttle service went into effect more than ten years ago and sees a daily ridership of 70 to 100 people.  

The two buses in its current fleet travel back and forth between Palisade Avenue and the  
Edgewater Ferry landing, where hundreds board a NY Waterway boat into New York City every weekday.  

With the help of Port Authority, the borough will be able to add two buses to the shuttle service and meet commuter needs in the western terminus of the town by mid-February, said Mayor Mark Sokolich.  

The agency has agreed to donate the $85,000 buses;  
Fort Lee will pay for their upkeep and assign two borough drivers to operate them.  

"There was a demand [from residents]," said Sokolich, who used a survey of all the major residential buildings in town to determine whether the expansion was necessary.  

If the new route proves unsuccessful and the borough has to revert to a two-bus shuttle service, the agreement will still be of benefit to the borough, said Sokolich.  

"When we invest in something, we make sure that it can be readily convertible to something else," said Sokolich. "  

Fort Lee could use these buses whether this works or doesn't work."
Tab 66
I'll be sure to remind him when we speak later.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 1, 2013, at 8:09 AM, "b stepien" wrote:

> We approved this mths ago (he just sent this out). Hope he remembers.
> 
> Fort Lee shuttle service to NY-bound ferry expanded Friday, February 1, 2013 BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVASTAFF WRITER Fort Lee Suburbanite Print
> | E-mail A new agreement between Fort Lee and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will allow the borough to add a second shuttle route to the Edgewater ferry this month, offering two free buses to commuters near Anderson Avenue.
> 
> The popular shuttle service went into effect more than ten years ago and sees a daily ridership of 70 to 100 people.
> 
> The two buses in its current fleet travel back and forth between Palisade Avenue and the Edgewater ferry landing, where hundreds board a NY Waterway boat into New York City every weekday.
> 
> With the help of Port Authority, the borough will be able to add two buses to the shuttle service and meet commuter needs in the western terminus of the town by mid-February, said Mayor Mark Sokolich.
> 
> The agency has agreed to donate the $85,000 buses;
> 
> Fort Lee will pay for their upkeep and assign two borough drivers to operate them.
> 
> "There was a demand [from residents]," said Sokolich, who used a survey of all the major residential buildings in town to determine whether the expansion was necessary.
> 
> If the new route proves unsuccessful and the borough has to revert to a two-bus shuttle service, the agreement will still be of benefit to the borough, said Sokolich.
> 
> "When we invest in something, we make sure that it can be readily convertible to something else," said Sokolich. "

CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT REQUESTED
Fort Lee could use these buses whether this works or doesn't work."

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry
Endorsement Call / Meeting Summary Sheet:

IGA Staffer: Matt Mowers
Democrat Target: Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich
Phone / Meeting: Meeting
Participants: Mayor Sokolich and Matt Mowers
Location (if applicable): Fort Lee
Date / Time: 02/05/13 – Lunch

Summary of Conversation:

Mayor Sokolich and I only briefly discuss the topic of endorsement (one he raised after we were talking about Harrison Mayor McDonough’s endorsement). He said that it is likely that the entire Fort Lee Council would be open to endorsing but that he and they would be hesitant because they are also friendly with Bergen Democratic Chairman Lou Stellato and they would not want to “embarrass” him. The topic shifted quickly thereafter, but it did seem that the door was open to re-approach the topic down the road, likely once the primary filing deadlines have passed.

Next Steps:

Continue developing the relationship as we have and re-approach at a later date.

Conditions of Endorsement (if applicable):

N/A
Agreed to Sign Endorsement Form:

N/A
Tab 75
Unfortunately I think Sokolich is going to be a no. It's a shame too- I really like the guy.
I haven't

On Mon, Sep 9, 2013 at 1:56 PM, Bridget Anne Kelly <bridgetannekelly@...> wrote:
Have you heard from Sokolich in a while?
Tab 83
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers]
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 2:00 PM
To: Mike D'Urso; Bill Stepien
Subject: WSJ Called About GW Bridge

Ted Mann from the WSJ just called asking about the GW Bridge because he had heard I was one of the individuals in the Gov's office who would talk to the Mayor of Fort Lee. I told him I would take down his number and get back to him later.

Not sure how you are handling or want handled. I don't plan to return his call on this unless you want me to.
Tab 85
From: Matt Mowers [matthew.mowers]
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2013 11:14 PM
To: rwilliams.gov
Subject: Re:

Things are going pretty well. Raising money is always the biggest concern of course. The job is a lot of fun though. What are your thoughts on how its all going?

Was a little distracted during that conf call at noon though - couple things with the bridge in jersey popped up (and not related to anything Kathy Sullivan wrote). May loop in with you quickly to catch up what was discussed.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 13, 2013, at 8:08 PM, "rwilliams.gov" wrote:

> How are things going? You like the job?
> 
> Sent from my iPhone
Tab 86
Ted Mann from the wsj left a message at the office line for me. He had called a few weeks ago about the GMB issue. I don't plan to return the call but let me know the team's thoughts if they are different.

Sent from my iPhone
Tab 87
Also - apparently Shawn Boburg from the record called nhgop today. I'm assuming something gwb related.

On Mon, Jan 6, 2014 at 5:29 PM, Bill Stepien <bstepien@] wrote:
Not really. He's a smart guy...who may not be as important as 10 years ago, but is still respected (and always quoted in the NYT)

I'm having coffee with Tom Rath tomorrow morning. Any info you would be interested in from him?
Tab 90
From: Ben DeMarzo [bendemarzo]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 8:55 PM  
To: Matt Mowers  
Subject: I just watched sokolich on wolf blitzer...he could have replaced ray liotta in goodfellas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoAV6ruMqg&feature=youtube_gdata_player
Tab 94
Memorandum

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
ATTORNEY OPINION WORK PRODUCT

To: File
From: Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Re: Mowers Interview Memorandum

On February 10, 2014, Matt Mowers was interviewed by Alexander H. Southwell, Avi Weitzman, and Sarah L. Kushner of Gibson Dunn. During the interview, Matt Mowers was represented by Craig Carpenito and Adam Baker of Alston & Bird LLP. All information contained herein was provided by Mowers or as indicated. Mowers has not read or reviewed the memorandum and has not adopted or approved its contents. Weitzman began the interview by administering the standard *Upjohn* warnings per the Gibson Dunn protocol and requesting that Mowers refrain from discussing the investigation and interview with others. Mowers stated that he agreed, understood, and did not have any questions.

This memorandum does not contain a verbatim transcript of what was said at the meeting; rather, it is a summary of the discussion that reflects counsel’s mental thoughts and impressions and is therefore protected from disclosure by the attorney work product doctrine.

I. Background

A. Educational and Professional Background

Mowers grew up in New Jersey. He is 24 years old. In October 2011, Mowers graduated from Rutgers University. Mowers explained that he worked during college; thus, he mainly enrolled in night or online classes. In 2009, Mowers said that he worked on a legislative campaign in Bergen County. In 2010, Mowers worked full-time for the Governor’s Office in two separate capacities: (1) from approximately January 2010–April 2010, Mowers was an aide for Jim Gilroy, Advance Director; and (2) in or around December 2010, Mowers returned to the Governor’s Office as a Regional Director in the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (“IGA”) unit, where he remained until April 2013. At IGA, Mowers’ region included the following counties: Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Essex, Hudson, and Bergen. In between his two positions in the Office, Mowers worked on a New Jersey State Senate campaign.
On or around April 19, 2013, Mowers left the Office and joined the Governor’s 2013 reelection campaign (the “Campaign”). On or around November 7, 2013, Mowers left the Campaign, and moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, where he assumed his current position as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Republican Party. Mowers first learned that he had received this position in or around October 2013.

B. Reporting Lines

At IGA, Mowers initially reported to Amanda DePalma, the then-Director of IGA. In or around January 2011, DePalma left the Office and joined the New Jersey Republican State Committee, and Bridget Kelly replaced DePalma as Director of IGA. Thereafter, Mowers reported to Kelly, who reported to Bill Stepien, the Deputy Chief of Staff of IGA.

C. Bridget Kelly

1. Background and Relationship at IGA

Mowers said that he knew Kelly since 2007, before they worked together at IGA, because they were both active in Bergen County politics. Mowers and Kelly began working at IGA around the same time. Mowers thought that he may have joined the Administration shortly before Kelly did.

Regarding Kelly’s managerial style in IGA, Mowers said that the structure of IGA changed over time under Kelly’s supervision as Director. At first, Kelly oversaw everyone in IGA. Subsequently, the reporting lines in IGA were restructured such that only certain employees reported to Kelly directly. Mowers said that Kelly would get annoyed if she thought that someone in IGA was “bypassing” her in the Office. Mowers added that Kelly was a responsive manager, but was not particularly effective at communicating the bigger picture.

Mowers said that Kelly was concerned with Stepien’s opinion of her. Kelly often tried to emulate Stepien, but even though she rose up through the IGA ranks quickly, she did not have the same background and understanding of government and how it operated as others in the Office did, such as Stepien. Mowers explained that there were times when Kelly simply parroted to others in IGA what Stepien had told her about a particular issue, but Kelly did not necessarily understand her parroted statements. Mowers believed that Kelly had an “authority complex,” and Kelly did not welcome opinions contrary to her own or others questioning her decisions.

Mowers added that Kelly always seemed distrustful of those in IGA who had known the Governor and/or Stepien longer than she had. Indeed, Kelly seemed to ostracize those in IGA who had an established relationship with the Governor and/or Stepien. Initially, Kelly did not seem to view Mowers in this way, but by the time he left IGA, its staff consisted almost entirely of Kelly’s “yes” people, many of whom were young and inexperienced. Mowers noted that, after Stepien left the Office, Kelly was not particularly close to anyone on senior staff. Mowers added that he believed that when Kelly became Deputy Chief of Staff, she felt she had to prove herself, and she increasingly became consumed with her new title and role in the Office.
this time, certain IGA employees complained about Kelly’s managerial style, and Kelly’s relatively close relationships in the Office soured as a result. In particular, Christina Renna and Peter Sheridan no longer seemed happy in the Office.

By the time he left the Campaign in early November 2013, Mowers and Kelly were no longer on good terms. For example, in or around mid-2011, Kelly sent Mowers an email in which Kelly called Mowers a “rising star.” Shortly thereafter, in a meeting with Kelly and Mowers, Stepien reprimanded Mowers because he was late to work that day. Mowers felt betrayed by Kelly because she did not defend him at the meeting. Second, after Mowers joined the Campaign, he and Kelly had a falling out when, during the last week of the Campaign, Kelly tried to undermine Mowers to Stepien. Specifically, the week before the November 5, 2013 election, the Campaign had organized a bus tour for the Governor. That week, certain IGA employees, including Kelly, took vacation time so that they could volunteer for the bus tour. Mowers had organized an event in Glen Ridge for the tour. About an hour before the event, as he was heading to his next Campaign-related commitment, Kelly emailed Mowers and Stepien, claiming that the event was going to be a disaster and that no one was going to show. As a result, Stepien asked Mowers to go to Glen Ridge to address the situation, even though Mowers was not scheduled to attend the event. When Mowers arrived at the Glen Ridge event, contrary to Kelly’s assertions, the event was running smoothly, and the turnout was larger than expected. A few days later—on the night of the election (November 5, 2013)—Mowers saw Kelly and told her how much stress she had caused him, to which Kelly responded in sum or in substance, “so I’ve heard.” Other than an email the next day sent to Kelly, Mowers, and others with whom they had worked in Bergen County, Mowers has not spoken to Kelly since the Glen Ridge event.

2. Kelly’s Background

Mowers said that he understood that Kelly had a contentious divorce. Mowers did not specifically recall when Kelly’s divorce was finalized, but thought that it was early on in the Administration. Mowers said he knew Kelly’s dad because he was active in politics, and knew Kelly’s kids because Kelly occasionally brought them to the office. Mowers remarked that Kelly had a two-hour commute, and had to balance work and raising her children, which Mowers understood took a toll on Kelly at times.

3. Kelly’s Relationship with Bill Stepien

Mowers said that Stepien and Kelly had a close working relationship. Mowers noted that Stepien and Kelly often had morning meetings, during which they would, among other things, review invite lists for certain events.

Mowers was not aware of any romantic relationship between Kelly and Stepien. Mowers thought that he may have heard a rumor that Kelly and Stepien were romantically involved, but Mowers had no reason to believe that the rumor was true, and did not specifically recall when he heard that rumor, which was possibly before he joined the Administration in 2010.
D. Interactions with Evan Ridley

Mowers said that he met Evan Ridley when Ridley was working for the New Jersey Republican State Committee in Bergen County. When Ridley joined IGA, he was assigned to the Northwest region in New Jersey. Mowers said that he and Ridley worked closely together and were friends. When Mowers joined the Campaign, Ridley assumed Mowers’ position as Regional Director—during this transition phase, Ridley and Mowers notified local elected officials in Mowers’ region that Ridley would be their new point of contact.

E. Interactions with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey

Mowers said that he had limited interaction with the Port Authority, and that others in IGA typically interacted with the Port Authority. If Mowers did contact the Port Authority, he typically emailed Anne Mary O’Rourke.

Mowers said that he knew of Bill Baroni when Baroni was a State Senator. When Baroni was at the Port Authority, he and Mowers only interacted socially at events.

Mowers said he did not have a relationship with David Wildstein. Mowers recalled hearing Wildstein’s name when Wildstein publicly revealed that he was “Wally Edge” on Politicker. Mowers had heard that Wally Edge had subsequently joined the Port Authority. In 2011, Mowers attended a Port Authority event, at which, while Mowers was mid-conversation with someone else, Wildstein joked, “at least you’re not in Hamilton anymore,” referring to Mowers’ work on a State Senate campaign. At the time, Mowers did not recognize who made that comment, and was confused why someone at the Port Authority knew who he (Mowers) was. Mowers subsequently realized it was Wildstein because Wildstein, who was knowledgeable about New Jersey politics, would have known who Mowers was based on Mowers’ involvement in New Jersey politics.

Mowers did not recall any other communications with Wildstein. It is possible that Mowers once sent an email to Wally Edge when Mowers was working on a campaign, but he did not specifically recall communicating with Wally Edge. Mowers did not recall ever speaking to Kelly about Wildstein.

F. IGA

1. Overview of IGA

Mowers said that IGA’s function varied depending on the administration. Mowers understood that, under Governor Corzine, for example, IGA was viewed as unit that simply housed campaign employees in between election cycles. During Governor Christie’s 2009 gubernatorial campaign, one issue that arose was local elected officials’ ability to effectively communicate with the State government. As a result, when Christie assumed office, his Administration focused on enhancing IGA’s approach to intergovernmental affairs from a good governance perspective. Under the Christie Administration, IGA was viewed as a vehicle
through which the Governor’s Office could provide constituent-type services to local officials and help local officials cut through bureaucratic red tape, by putting local officials in contact with the relevant State departments and other entities regarding a particular issue. In order to realize this goal, IGA developed working relationships with local officials. When a local official contacted IGA, IGA’s general practice was to explain to the local official that IGA would help put the official in touch with the relevant department and coordinate communications between the two. IGA also communicated with local elected officials on legislative issues pertaining to the Governor’s agenda.

As a result, Mowers developed strong relationships with local elected officials. Mowers said that there were approximately 183 mayors in his region, and he communicated with each of these mayors in some capacity. For example, if there was a government grant for which all municipalities were eligible, Mowers would relay that information to all the municipalities in his region. Mowers explained that he interacted more frequently with certain mayors in his region, which was a function of a municipality’s size and its election cycle. Mowers elaborated that mayors of larger towns typically had more complex issues and relied more on the State’s assistance. In addition, certain towns rotated mayors every year, whereas other mayors were elected to four-year terms. In general, Mowers said that he interacted more frequently with 4-year mayors who relied more on State government.

2. The Endorsement Process

When Mowers was at IGA, his involvement with Campaign-related activities, including meetings and conversations with local elected officials, was voluntary and occurred on his personal time. Mowers said he did not use State resources in connection with these activities.

Mowers did not recall when the endorsement process began, or when he began talking to mayors about potential endorsements. When asked how he became involved in the endorsement process, Mowers explained that, in 2013, mayors in his region would often reach out to him to discuss potential endorsements, as he was their natural point of contact and it was an election year.

Mowers was not aware of any suggestion in the Administration or on the Campaign to retaliate against elected officials for not endorsing the Governor.

3. T-100

Mowers said that he was familiar with a T-100 list, but he was not sure how the towns on the list were selected. Mowers noted that the towns on the list were generally larger towns that relied more on the State’s assistance for various issues.
Chronology of the George Washington Bridge Events

A. Mowers’ and IGA’s Interactions with Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich & Endorsement Efforts

1. Mowers’ Relationship with Mayor Sokolich – Generally

Mowers said that his first recollection of meeting Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich was at a Christmas party at Drumthwacket in December 2010, shortly after Mowers joined IGA. Mowers believes that he and Sokolich interacted in-person at least ten times during the course of Mowers’ tenure at IGA. Mowers and Sokolich spoke frequently, in part because Fort Lee was a relatively large municipality and relied on the State’s assistance in connection with various matters. Mowers liked Sokolich, and they would occasionally meet for a meal, unrelated to Mowers’ role at IGA and done on Mowers’ own time. During these interactions, Sokolich would talk about his family. Sokolich sometimes discussed his future career plans, including potentially running for State Senator.

When asked what issues Sokolich was focused on as the Mayor of Fort Lee, Mowers said that Sokolich would discuss matters pertaining to the George Washington Bridge. Mowers elaborated that Fort Lee’s proximity to the George Washington Bridge impacted Fort Lee’s policing and other needs. Education was another issue that Sokolich often discussed. Mowers and Sokolich would also discuss local issues relevant to the Governor’s agenda, including property tax issues and arbitration reform. When asked if Mowers and Sokolich ever discussed economic development issues, Mowers said that Sokolich was proud of, and would talk about, the Hudson Lights development project.

2. Mayor Sokolich’s Requests to the Governor’s Office

With regard to public reports alleging that Mayor Sokolich was “pressured” and received “gifts” from the Administration in an effort to secure his endorsement, Mowers explained that he was surprised when he read those allegations because it was Mayor Sokolich who first brought up his potential endorsement, and because it was Mayor Sokolich who asked the Port Authority and, separately, the Governor’s Office for various things. Examples of Mayor Sokolich’s requests included a tour of the Port Authority for his family when they were visiting, and a request that the Governor write a letter of recommendation to Rutgers University on behalf of Mayor Sokolich’s son. Mowers said that when Mayor Sokolich made a reasonable request, IGA tried to accommodate, however the letter of recommendation ask was not such a request. Mowers thought that Sokolich made this request by phone around the Spring of 2012, during the college application process, and may have subsequently reiterated the request in person. Mowers had to explain to Mayor Sokolich that this request was not something that the Office or the Governor could fulfill, which Mayor Sokolich understood. Mowers did not specifically recall, but thought that he may have mentioned this request to Kelly and/or Sheridan.
As for the Port Authority tour, Mowers did not recall if Mayor Sokolich made the request through IGA or to the Port Authority directly, or whether IGA was involved in handling the request. Mowers did not know who gave Mayor Sokolich’s family the tour. Mowers just recalled that the Mayor was very thankful that his family received the tour.

Sokolich also made government-related requests to the Office, particularly in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. For example, Mowers vaguely recalled that Mayor Sokolich requested radios to communicate with individuals trapped inside high rises in Fort Lee, as well as help with easing travel to New York. It was Mowers’ understanding that these requests were fulfilled.

3. **IGA’s Endorsements Efforts Regarding Mayor Sokolich**

   a. **February 5, 2013 Meeting**

   Mowers and Sokolich discussed a potential endorsement two times—on or around February 5, 2013, and, again, that spring. Mowers said that both conversations were casual and occurred over a brief meal. Mowers’ attention was directed to a February 7, 2013 email from Mowers (personal account) to Sheridan that contained a summary of the February 5, 2013 meeting between Mowers and Sokolich. At this meeting, Mayor Sokolich was the one who brought up the topic of a potential endorsement. Mowers explained that, around this time, mayors were beginning to endorse the Governor, and, as such, mayors increasingly raised the subject with Mowers during their interactions. Mowers pointed out that endorsements were a natural topic of discussion in 2013 (an election year) among those in government.

   b. **March 26, 2013 Meeting**

   Mowers and Mayor Sokolich also discussed the possibility of the Mayor’s endorsement in or around the spring of 2013, when they met up briefly for dinner in Fort Lee. At the March 26, 2013 dinner, Mowers and Mayor Sokolich had a casual conversation about different issues. At one point during the conversation, Mowers and Mayor Sokolich discussed the Democratic mayors who had endorsed the Governor thus far, including one Democratic mayor who had endorsed the Governor a few days prior. In that context, Mowers asked Mayor Sokolich if endorsing the Governor was something that the Mayor would consider. Mayor Sokolich paused and then explained that he supported the Governor, that he thought the Governor was going to win the election, and that he liked the Governor as a person, but that he was scared to endorse the Governor for at least two reasons. First, Mayor Sokolich had financial interests in certain Democratic towns—including Cliffside Park—that he feared losing were he to endorse the Governor. Second, Mayor Sokolich had a good relationship with the Democratic Chairman in Bergen County. Mayor Sokolich said that he wished he had a braver answer for Mowers. In response, Mowers said he understood and that it was fine. Regarding Mayor Sokolich’s financial interests, Mowers explained that Mayor Sokolich had a private law practice that focused on real estate and zoning law, and, as part of that practice, Mayor Sokolich had contracts with Democratic towns in New Jersey. At the dinner, Mayor Sokolich said he was concerned that he would lose these contracts if he endorsed the Governor, a Republican.
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Mowers came away from this dinner with the understanding that Mayor Sokolich would not endorse the Governor because of the Mayor’s perceived financial interests. Mowers did not consider Mayor Sokolich’s potential endorsement as particularly important at the time. Mowers did not specifically recall discussing this dinner with Kelly or Stepien, but he did tell Sheridan what Mayor Sokolich had said. Mowers generally recalled that he and Sheridan both were unconcerned that Mayor Sokolich would not endorse the Governor, but thought that it was a shame. Mowers’ attention was directed to a text message he sent shortly after the dinner, which provided, in sum or substance, “Unfortunately, I think Sokolich will be a no. It’s a shame, I really like the guy.” Mowers did not specifically recall this text, but thought that the “no” likely referred to Mayor Sokolich’s potential endorsement.

Mowers said that, had the Campaign viewed Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement as particularly important, which it did not, the Campaign likely would have asked Mowers to follow up with Mayor Sokolich, which no one did. Mowers also pointed out that the Governor won Fort Lee in the election. To Mowers’ knowledge, no one else in the Office, including Ridley, sought Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement after this March 2013 dinner.

C. April 19, 2013–May 2013

When Mowers joined the Campaign, he actively sought mayors’ endorsements in connection with his responsibilities on the Campaign. Mowers did not seek Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement during Mowers’ time working for the Campaign. During this time, Mowers did not recall any communications with Mayor Sokolich other than one text message exchange, on or around May 8, 2013, in which exchange, Mayor Sokolich thanked Mowers for all of the nice things that he had told Ridley about the Mayor, and offered to take Mowers and Ridley out to dinner to celebrate Mowers’ new position at the Campaign the next time Mowers was in town. No such dinner ever occurred.

B. The Port Authority’s Interactions with Mayor Sokolich

To Mowers’ knowledge, no one at the Port Authority was tasked with or sought Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement. Mayor Sokolich told Mowers that Baroni was good to work with and responsive to Mayor Sokolich’s requests.

C. August 12, 2013

On August 12, 2013, Mowers was with Sheridan at a coffee shop in Jersey City, waiting to meet with Jersey City Assemblywoman Candace Osborne about Osborne’s potential endorsement of the Governor. Before Osborne arrived, Kelly called Mowers on his cellphone, and they had a brief conversation. Mowers said that the first part of the conversation was fairly casual—Mowers asked how Kelly’s kids were, and told Kelly that he and Sheridan were in Jersey City, to which Kelly joked that Mowers and Sheridan never invited Kelly to the “fun stuff.” Kelly then asked Mowers about the status of Mayor Sokolich’s potential endorsement. Mowers told Kelly that Mayor Sokolich did not intend to endorse the Governor because of his
financial interests, to which Kelly asked if Mowers was certain that Mayor Sokolich would not endorse the Governor. Mowers confirmed to Kelly that that was his understanding. Kelly replied, in sum or in substance, “good, that's all I needed to know,” at which point the conversation ended. At the time, the call did not seem out of the ordinary, as Kelly and Mowers still interacted after Mowers moved to the Campaign, including about the status of potential endorsements of local elected officials. Mowers explained that, in hindsight, it was odd that Kelly asked specifically about Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement at this time because Mowers had not sought his endorsement since the March 2013 meeting.

Mowers did not know what prompted Kelly to call him on August 12, 2013, and ask him about Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement. The only other time that Mowers recalled Kelly mentioning Mayor Sokolich’s name was in July 2013, when Kelly asked Mowers whether he had heard from a number of mayors recently because Kelly was concerned that Ridley was lying about meeting with mayors, including Sokolich. Mowers thought that he responded that he had not recently spoken to Mayor Sokolich or the other mayors Kelly mentioned.

D. August 13, 2013

Mowers did not see, and was not otherwise aware of, Kelly’s August 13, 2013 email to Wildstein about “traffic problems” before it was made public in January 2014.


Mowers did not recall hearing about the lane realignment before or during September 9–13, 2013.

When asked about a September 9, 2013, email from Kelly to Mowers in which Kelly asked if Mowers had heard from Sokolich in a while, Mowers said that this email did not seem unusual to him at the time for the same reason that Kelly’s August 12th call also seemed innocuous. Mowers responded to Kelly, in sum or in substance, that he had not heard from Sokolich in a while.

F. September 17, 2013 and October 1, 2013 Wall Street Journal Articles

The first time Mowers recalled learning about the lane realignment was around the time of either the September 17 or October 1, 2013 Wall Street Journal article regarding the lane realignment. In particular, Mowers recalled that the night before one of the two articles was published, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal—either Heather Haddon or Ted Mann (Mowers did not recall)—asked the Campaign for a comment. Thereafter, Stepien told Mowers that a “ridiculous” article might be coming out alleging that the lane realignment was political retaliation.

Mowers said that he would have read this article at the time because it was of interest to him since he was the one who talked to Mayor Sokolich about a potential endorsement. Mowers otherwise found the story mundane because it was just about a traffic study. As such, Mowers
did not give the stories much thought at the time. Mowers was not concerned at the time that he would be blamed for the alleged retaliation.

G. December 2013

In or around December 2013, Mowers received an inquiry from Wall Street Journal reporter Mann in connection with Mowers’ endorsement efforts regarding Mayor Sokolich. After he received this inquiry, Mowers relayed it to Stepien and Michael DuHaime in an email, and stated that he did not intend to return Mann’s call. Shortly thereafter, in connection with contemporaneous press reports suggesting that Mowers sought Mayor Sokolich’s endorsement as recently as August 2013, Mowers spoke to Stepien about the timeline of his interactions with the Mayor regarding his potential endorsement. Mowers told Stepien that Mowers thought that he had not spoken to Mayor Sokolich about an endorsement since the spring of 2013.

H. January 2014

Mowers was shocked when he read the newspaper reports published on or around January 8, 2014, regarding Kelly’s involvement in the lane realignment. When he read these articles and learned of Kelly’s August 13, 2013 “traffic problems” email, Mowers vaguely recalled that Kelly had asked him about the Sokolich endorsement in August 2013. At that point, Mowers asked Sheridan if he remembered whether Kelly had called Mowers sometime in August 2013 about Mayor Sokolich, but Sheridan did not recall. Mowers then checked his calendar and confirmed that he was in Jersey City on August 12, 2013, when Kelly called him about Mayor Sokolich. This was the first time that Mowers made any connection between Kelly’s August 12 and September 9, 2013 communications to him, and the lane realignment.

III. Superstorm Sandy Aid Allegations

A. Interactions with Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer

Hoboken was in Mowers’ region at IGA. As a result, Mowers probably met with Mayor Zimmer at least one dozen times when he was at IGA. Mowers did not recall when he first met Mayor Zimmer. Mowers interacted with Mayor Zimmer more than other mayors in part because she made more requests to the Office than other mayors.

Mowers met with Mayor Zimmer more frequently after Superstorm Sandy, which hit on October 29, 2012. Post-Sandy, Mayor Zimmer constantly visited the State House and had a number of Sandy-related issues that she wanted to discuss with the Administration. Mowers once joked that Mayor Zimmer should have a State House ID because she visited so often. Mowers said that the Office was very attentive to all communities affected by Sandy, and that IGA hired additional staff members who focused solely on Sandy recovery issues, including interfacing with mayors and helping them navigate relevant policy issues and changes to their municipalities’ flood maps.

Mowers had a good relationship with Mayor Zimmer’s Chief of Staff, Dan Bryan.
B. Mayor Zimmer’s Requests Regarding Sandy Aid

Mowers said that no one, including Lieutenant Governor Kimberly Guadagno and DCA Commissioner Richard Constable, ever suggested to him that Hoboken’s Sandy aid would be delayed as a result of private development issues. Mowers said that, to his knowledge, politics played no role in the administration of Sandy aid.

During, and in the immediate aftermath of, Sandy, there was no cellphone service in Hoboken, but Bryan was able to call Mowers from a land line. On or around October 30, 2012, however, Mayor Zimmer went on CNN live and, through the broadcast, asked the Administration to send the National Guard to Hoboken, which the Administration did. Around that time, Mowers asked Bryan why Mayor Zimmer made this request on CNN, as opposed to reaching out to Mowers directly, especially because the Administration had always been responsive to Mayor Zimmer’s requests. Examples of this responsiveness included sending the National Guard to Hoboken two days after Sandy hit and one day after Mayor Zimmer made the request, helping restore power to Hoboken shortly after Sandy, and providing Mayor Zimmer with direct and frequent access to commissioners and other senior members of the Administration to discuss Sandy-related issues. For example, on or around November 3, 2012—the Saturday after Superstorm Sandy—Mowers set up a conference call with Mayor Zimmer, Commissioner Constable, the Lieutenant Governor, Kelly, a representative from the New Jersey State Police, a representative from the Office of Emergency Management, and Mowers. The Lieutenant Governor hosted the call. On the call, the Lieutenant Governor explained to Mayor Zimmer that everyone participating on the call was there to hear what Mayor Zimmer needed in the aftermath of Sandy, and to help her address those needs. Mayor Zimmer said she wanted generators, as well as assistance with lighting so that the utility companies could work around the clock. Mowers said that the Administration helped Mayor Zimmer fulfill these requests, among others.

Mowers explained that IGA also set up the many meetings that Mayor Zimmer requested with various departments and other entities in the Administration to discuss Sandy recovery efforts and related issues. At these meetings, the participating departments tried to help Mayor Zimmer navigate through the Sandy aid application process.

In or around early 2013, Mayor Zimmer became focused on a flood mitigation plan for Hoboken that the Rockefeller Group had designed. This plan envisioned flood walls around the city, and flood brakes in the street. Mayor Zimmer discussed this flood mitigation plan at almost every Sandy-related meeting she had with the Administration. Mowers and others had to explain to Mayor Zimmer that receiving federal funding for such a massive flood mitigation project was a process, and, for example, had to first be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mayor Zimmer told Mowers that she was concerned that the project would not be approved fast enough, stating hyperbolically that Hoboken was expecting rain that week, as if every rainfall would lead to flooding. Mowers explained to Mayor Zimmer that rain was different than Superstorm Sandy, which was an extremely rare occurrence.
At one point, Mayor Zimmer asked for a meeting with the Port Authority because she wanted to place retractable walls around the entrance of Hoboken’s PATH station. Bryan had to explain to Mayor Zimmer that, because all of the PATH stations are connected, every PATH station would need retractable walls for this plan to be effective, which Mayor Zimmer said she had not realized.

Mowers said that Mayor Zimmer had a lot of legitimate concerns about Sandy recovery efforts, particularly with respect to figuring out how to adapt the Federal government’s one-size-fits-all recovery model to an urban environment. Mowers explained that a focus of the meetings that Mayor Zimmer had with members of the Administration was on adapting Sandy-related recovery efforts to an urban environment.

At some point, Mayor Zimmer requested a meeting with representatives from all of the relevant entities in the Administration to discuss Sandy-related issues. A lot of time and effort was put into scheduling and planning this meeting, but Mayor Zimmer showed up for the meeting unprepared, without any questions or topics of discussion for the meeting.

Mowers attended a March 5, 2013 meeting with Mayor Zimmer and various commissioners. Mowers did not think that the Rockefeller Group was present at this meeting, and did not recall attending any Sandy aid-related meetings with Mayor Zimmer that the Rockefeller Group attended. Mowers explained that there was another meeting around this time, which was organized at Mayor Zimmer’s request, and included representatives from DCA and DEP. Mowers said that Mayor Zimmer wanted the Rockefeller Group to attend this meeting, so that they could better explain the flood mitigation plan for Hoboken. Mowers and others involved in organizing the meeting were confused why Mayor Zimmer wanted the Rockefeller Group at the meeting. Mowers said that the meeting was rescheduled several times to try to accommodate everyone, but that the Rockefeller Group was ultimately unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Mowers attended this meeting, which he recalled took place on the second floor of the State House.

Mowers also recalled a meeting at the State House with Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Rebuilding and Recovery Marc Ferzan, representatives from FEMA, and mayors whose towns had been particularly hard hit by Sandy, including Hoboken. Mowers thought that this meeting occurred shortly before he left the Office and joined the Campaign in April 2013. This meeting addressed, among other things, the application of FEMA’s guidelines to urban communities.

Mowers never heard any discussions that Sandy aid should be contingent upon local elected officials’ support for the Governor’s political agenda or any development projects.

Mowers did not discuss Sandy aid with Mayor Zimmer after he left the Office and joined the Campaign.
C. Endorsement Efforts Regarding Mayor Zimmer

The first time that Mowers recalled a discussion with Mayor Zimmer about a potential endorsement of the Governor was at a Christmas party in Drumthwacket, which Mayor Zimmer attended with her husband, Stan Grossbard. At the event, Grossbard raised the issue of his wife’s potential endorsement, and relayed to Mowers why Mayor Zimmer should not endorse the Governor, but said that Mayor Zimmer would continue to publicly praise the Governor. Mowers sensed that Grossbard was particularly active in his wife's political career. At the time, Mayor Zimmer, unlike her husband, was undecided as to whether or not she should endorse the Governor. Mayor Zimmer told Mowers that she thought that the Governor was great, but that her endorsement decision would turn in part on whether Hoboken would have a run-off election in the fall of 2013. At one point, Bryan told Mowers that if there was a run-off election, Mayor Zimmer might still be able to endorse the Governor if the Governor supported Mayor Zimmer in turn. At the time, the Governor had not even declared that he would be running for reelection, which Mowers pointed out to Bryan.

Once Hoboken’s mayoral election was scheduled for November 2013, Mowers understood that Bryan wanted Mayor Zimmer to endorse the Governor, that Mayor Zimmer remained undecided, and that her husband still did not want Mayor Zimmer to endorse the Governor.

Once at the Campaign, Mowers did not communicate with Mayor Zimmer and her office as frequently because of his busy campaign schedule, and the Campaign was not focused on trying to secure Mayor Zimmer’s endorsement. At some point, however, during the summer of 2013, Democratic Mayor of Weehawken Richard Turner told Mowers that Mayor Zimmer might be open to a potential endorsement, and that Turner would reach out to Mayor Zimmer to review with her the political ramifications of such an endorsement. Thereafter, Turner told Mowers that Bryan wanted to talk to Mowers about a possible statement from Mayor Zimmer declaring her support for the Governor’s reelection. Thus, in or around early fall 2013, he and Bryan met in Hoboken to discuss a potential statement of support from Mayor Zimmer. Mowers pointed out that it was Mayor Zimmer and Bryan, not Mowers, who proactively reached out to schedule this meeting. At the meeting, Bryan told Mowers that Mayor Zimmer wanted to issue a statement supporting the Governor’s reelection, but Mayor Zimmer did not want to use the word “endorse,” which Mowers said was fine. Mowers told Bryan that a political statement of support without the word “endorse” was likely not something that warranted its own press conference, but that the Campaign might want to issue a press release announcing Mayor Zimmer’s statement, which Bryan thought was a good idea. At the end of the meeting, Mowers explained to Bryan that Mowers was not going to report back to his boss, Stepien, about Zimmer’s potential statement of support and the proposed press release unless and until Bryan confirmed with Mayor Zimmer that she wanted to do this. A few days later, Bryan confirmed with Mowers that Mayor Zimmer agreed to the proposed plan, and that Mayor Zimmer’s statement of support would expressly state that Mayor Zimmer supported the Governor’s reelection. Mowers then relayed this to Stepien, and noted that, while the Governor was significantly ahead in the polls and few constituencies at this point were undecided about the upcoming election, it could
nevertheless be worthwhile to have Mayor Zimmer issue a statement of support, especially in conjunction with the Governor’s upcoming visit to Hoboken, a traditionally Democratic city. Stepien agreed with Mowers’ assessment.

Shortly thereafter, Mowers scheduled and participated in a conference call with Mayor Zimmer, Bryan, and Campaign Press Secretary Kevin Roberts regarding Mayor Zimmer’s political statement of support, including the timing of issuing the statement. On the call, Mowers noted that the Governor was scheduled to visit Hoboken for a groundbreaking event at Stevens Institute of Technology in October 2013, and that there would be press at that event. Mayor Zimmer and Bryan agreed that Mayor Zimmer’s statement should be issued in connection with that event. On the call, Mowers then discussed the proposed content of the statement. Mowers emphasized to Mayor Zimmer and Bryan that the statement had to address Mayor Zimmer’s political support for the Governor because, otherwise, it was not relevant to the Campaign. Mayor Zimmer and Bryan did not object to this, but Mayor Zimmer wanted to include in the statement language about how helpful the Governor had been in connection with Superstorm Sandy, and how the Governor had helped to keep the Hoboken University Medical Center open. Mayor Zimmer rearranged her schedule to attend the event at Stevens.

On or around October 1, 2013, shortly after the conference call, Mowers emailed Bryan a draft statement of support, which memorialized the language discussed on the call. At that point, and for the first time since Mayor Zimmer and Bryan approached Mowers, they pulled back on the political support language previously agreed upon, including that Mayor Zimmer was proud to stand with the Governor in support of his reelection. Mowers’ attention was directed to an October 2, 2013 email from Bryan to Mowers, which reflected this watered down statement that Mayor Zimmer and Bryan wanted the Campaign to release:

Over the past three and a half years, I have been proud to stand with Governor Christie and support him on important initiatives like pension reform and establishing a real property tax cap. . . . Here in Hoboken, Governor Christie was there for us when we needed him most, responding to the crisis of Superstorm Sandy and stepping up to work with us to save the Hoboken University Medical Center — and its 1,300 jobs — from potential closure. I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to serve alongside Governor Christie.

This statement said a lot of nice of things about the Governor and all that he has done for Hoboken, but, because it was not political, it was not germane to the Campaign, and not something about which the Campaign would issue a press release. Mowers explained this to Bryan, and sent Bryan an email memorializing why the Campaign would not issue a press release about the statement. At this point, the dialogue regarding Mayor Zimmer’s potential statement of support ended.

Mowers added that Mayor Zimmer had a tendency to change her mind at a moment’s notice, and often had trouble remembering what she had asked for. As an example, Mayor Zimmer would request a meeting with the Administration about one topic, but shortly thereafter
would ask that the meeting focus on something completely different than the initial topic. The process regarding Mayor Zimmer’s proposed statement of support also reflected this tendency.

IV. Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop

Mowers was asked about public allegations that the Administration cancelled meetings with Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop in response to Mayor Fulop’s failure to endorse. Mowers did not have any discussions with Mayor Fulop about a potential endorsement. When asked who would have interacted directly with Mayor Fulop about his potential endorsement, Mowers thought Stepien, or State Senator Kevin O’Toole.

Mowers was unaware of any scheduled or cancelled meetings with Mayor Fulop. Mowers added that Kelly was generally the one who interfaced with commissioners and local elected officials regarding high-level meetings.
Supplemental Exhibit 1
(Supplied by Senator Gill)
From: Ryan Williams [williams.gop@privacy.com]
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2014 5:11 PM
To: Matt Mowers
Subject: Re: You aren’t commenting on any of this stuff are you.

Just right back and say:

Off the record: I’m not commenting on my old boss, but just for reference, of course I wasn’t called. I was a mid level campaign operative, not a senior staffer in the governor’s office.

I wouldn’t say anything about the emails, because you never know if you might be on some kind of email that they pull up in those documents.

Also send him Jennifer’s statement on the record:

"Governor Christie demonstrated leadership by taking responsibility, holding the staffer who ordered the lane closures accountable, and openly and honestly answering every question about this issue. His actions stand in sharp contrast to Democrats like Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter who have refused to discuss why they lied about the disastrous consequences of ObamaCare and refused to apologize for misleading their constituents."

Jennifer Horn

On Fri, Jan 10, 2014 at 5:01 PM, Matt Mowers <matthew.mowers@nhgop.org> wrote:
Begin forwarded message:

From: Kevin Landrigan <klandrigan@nashuatelegraph.com>
Subject: You aren’t commenting on any of this stuff are you.
Date: January 10, 2014 4:03:28 PM EST
To: Matt Mowers <mowers@nhgop.org>, Kevin Landrigan <klandrigan@nashuatelegraph.com>

Matt
If any of these Dem statements are incorrect, please point them out.

Here is the transcript from Christie’s presser: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/transcript-chris-christies-news-conference-on-george-washington-bridge-scandal/2014/01/09/d0f4711c-7944-11e3-8963-b4b654bec9%2_story.html?Post+generic=%3Ftid%3Dsm_twitter_washingtonpost

Questions this brewing scandal raises:

Will the NHGOP’s top staffer be the next person named in Christie’s growing scandal?

Will BridgeGate be the first thing NH voters learn about Christie?

Has Christie or anyone else called Matt Mowers to ask about Bridget Kelly yet? Christie mentioned multiple times that senior staff and staff connected to Kelly would be interviewed.
Was Mowers response for recruiting the Fort Lee Mayor's endorsement? Was he on emails contemplating political revenge for his refusal to endorse?
Not sure why I'm referenced as a top legislative staffer - for this time - I'm ok with it though

Sunday, January 12, 2014

NH legislative staff member has connection to Christie scandal

Kevin Landrigan
Could New Hampshire's top legislative staffer be stuck in the middle of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's bridge scandal?

Let's review a few facts relating to Matt Mowers:

Former superior: Deputy Chief of Staff Bridget Kelly was the staffer Christie threw under the bus for "lying" and denying any knowledge about the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge.

From 2010-13, Kelly was director of Christie's intergovernmental and legislative affairs.

From 2010 until April 2013, Mowers was a regional director in the office Kelly ran.

Mayoral endorsements for Christie: Mowers was in charge of Bergen County, home of Fort Lee, and he tweeted often throughout the spring about local officials he recruited to embrace Christie's re-election campaign.

Some of those tweets were Democratic officials Mowers had helped steer to Christie, who was able to close the sale with a telephone call or personal visit.

Will Christie interview him? During a two-hour press conference, Christie said he would speak with all senior and campaign staff members with connection to Kelly about their knowledge of the matter. Will those interviews include one with Mowers?

We can answer that one - there's no way Mowers will be called in and asked about this.

Mowers had declined to comment since the scandal broke, and did so Friday in response to emails from The Sunday Telegraph seeking a response to these and other questions.

GOP State Chairwoman Jennifer Horn, of Nashua, issued this statement.
"Governor Christie demonstrated leadership by taking responsibility, holding the staffer who ordered the lane closures accountable, and openly and honestly answering every question about this issue," Horn said.

"His actions stand in sharp contrast to Democrats like Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, who have refused to discuss why they lied about the disastrous consequences of Obamacare and refused to apologize for misleading their constituents."

Meanwhile, the other GOP figure Christie tossed to the side of the road had his own New Hampshire connections.

Christie said Bill Stepien should no longer be a candidate for state party chairman and should be fired as a consultant to the Republican Governors Association that Christie heads. Stepien had been Christie’s campaign manager.

Stepien led the grass-roots campaign in New Hampshire for President George W. Bush’s re-election in 2004. Four years later, he played an even bigger role in the campaign of Arizona Sen. John McCain.

**Horn offers lone voice.**

Any guesses which was the only state Republican Party Twitter account that sent out an "attaboy" message on Thursday after Christie’s two-hour news conference?

If you said New Hampshire, you’d be right.

"@GovChristie showed leadership by taking responsibility." Horn tweeted through the state party’s account. "Unlike @SenatorShaheen who refuses to take responsibility for her Obamacare vote."

We checked more than 40 state GOP twitter accounts on Friday and partisan opponents looked at the rest, and none of them jumped to Christie’s aid in the hours that followed Christie’s nationally televised news conference from Trenton, N.J.
John DiStaso's Granite Status: Report: Top NHGOP staffer approached NJ mayor about backing Christie prior to 'Bridgegate'

MONDAY, JAN. 13: MOWERS, CHRISTIE AND THE MAYOR. On the job just more than two months as the executive director of the New Hampshire Republican Party, 24-year-old Matt Mowers finds himself Monday identified as a player in the prologue to the "Bridgegate" scandal plaguing his old boss, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

No reports to date have implicated Mowers in the George Washington Bridge lanes closure scandal that cost a top Christie staffer her job, but The Wall Street Journal identified Mowers Sunday as the Christie campaign staffer who initially "approached" Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich "indicating an endorsement would be welcome."

The Journal cited "a person familiar with the conversations."

Mowers at the time, last spring, was the regional political director of Christie's reelection campaign. He had previously served in Christie's governor's office as a regional director of intergovernmental relations and legislative affairs. In both roles, Fort Lee was part of the Bergen County region he covered.

In the governor's office role, one of Mowers' superiors was Bridget Anne Kelly, the deputy chief of staff fired by Christie last week as the scandal erupted.

Shortly after Christie won reelection, Mowers was named as the top staffer of the New Hampshire GOP. At the time, party officials said Mowers' prior role with Christie would not give Christie an unfair advantage should the governor run for President in 2016 and should Mowers still be in that position during the presidential campaign.

And today, NHGOP chair Jennifer Horn gave Mowers a vote of confidence.

"Matt is an extremely talented young man and he has been a tremendous addition to our team. He is going to continue to make a valuable contribution to our party and help us defeat the Democrats in November and restore fiscal responsibility to our government," she said in a statement.

According to NorthJersey.com, the web site of The Record newspaper, Sokolich confirmed Monday that someone did float the idea of endorsing Christie to him during the New Jersey governor's campaign.
"It got as close as, 'Is this something you'd consider?'" the mayor reportedly said, and then reportedly refused to answer more questions.

Sokolich did not identify Mowers and would not disclose who made the overture. He told NorthJersey.com that he was never "directly" asked to endorse Christie.

Mowers did not return the Granite Status' messages seeking comment.

Monday, a top Democratic state lawmaker in New Jersey said he would begin to issue subpoenas as part of a committee investigation into the bridge lane closures.

It's unclear if Mowers will be called and whether he has retained an attorney.

New Hampshire GOP chair Horn would not address whether Mowers had approached Sokolich regarding a Christie endorsement. Nor would she say what she knows about his role in the matter.

She did say, "I would expect that in the role that he had, he would be seeking support for his candidate from all of the leaders in the region he covered."

A New Hampshire source close to Mowers reiterated Horn's comment, saying that said in his role as regional director, Mowers did ask officials in region he covered, of both political parties, to support Christie.

"He had conversations with hundreds of officials seeking support, because that was the job of a campaign operative," the source said. "He was doing his job."

The source also declined to comment on whether Sokolich was among those hundreds of officials approached by Mowers.

Horn said that even if it is true that Mowers did discuss a possible endorsement of Christie with Sokolich, it would have no effect on his job as the top party staffer.

The state Democratic Party, meanwhile, Monday accused the state Republican Party of "dodging questions" about Mowers.

"The NHGOP and Matt Mowers can't hide from the people of New Hampshire forever," the party said. "Eventually, they will have to come clean about what role Mowers played in the scheme that put people's safety at risk to exact political revenge.

"Matt Mowers spent years working under now-disgraced aides of Chris Christie, and we are all left to wonder what dirty tricks they taught him and what plans he has to use them in New Hampshire," said NHDP
spokesman Harrell Kirstein. "Granite Staters deserve to know about Mowers's role in Christie's growing bridge scandal.

"Did he bully the mayor of Fort Lee when he declined to endorse Christie?" Kirstein asked. "Was he a part of the scheme to shut down the George Washington Bridge? Simply put, he and the NHGOP leadership should come clean and answer some basic questions for the people of New Hampshire."

NHGOP chair Horn responded, "Democrats are desperate to distract from the fact that Jeanne Shaheen lied to New Hampshire about the disastrous consequences of ObamaCare. They will do and say anything to avoid a discussion about how Shaheen's deciding vote for ObamaCare forced thousands of New Hampshire families to lose their health insurance and give up their doctors."
NH Voters Getting Brutal Introduction to NJ Gov. Chris Christie

by Harrell Kirstein on January 14, 2014 in Uncategorized

**NH Voters Learning About Christie Team’s Revenge Style Politics In Local Press**

Concord – The fallout from Governor Chris Christie’s bridge scandal is spreading far beyond New Jersey’s borders. In New Hampshire, voters are being introduced to Christie through his former aide Matt Mowers’—now the NHGOP’s top staffer—involvement in seeking political retribution against the city of Fort Lee by shutting down lanes on the busiest bridge in the world.

Close to a week after news broke about top Christie aide’s scheme to block access to the George Washington Bridge and put people’s safety at risk for political revenge, Granite Staters are still seeking answers. When did Mowers hear about the plan to close lanes on the George Washington Bridge to punish Fort Lee, and was he involved in concocting it? What contact, if any, did Mowers have with employees of the Port Authority, and did others within the Christie campaign have contact with Port Authority employees? And when was the last time Mowers talked to Bridget Kelly and Bill Septien, his two former bosses who have been forced to resign, and did they discuss the bridge scandal?

Christie and Mowers can run, but they can’t hide. These three simple questions for Governor Christie and Mr. Mowers aren’t going away. Below is some of the local coverage Granite Staters are waking up to in their hometown newspapers:

**Union Leader: NHGOP chair stands by top party staffer following mention in ‘Bridgegate’ report**

John DiStaso

“The New Hampshire Republican Party chairwoman stood by her recently-hired 24-year-old party executive director Monday after he was named as a player in the prologue to the “Bridgegate” scandal plaging his old boss, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie….New Hampshire GOP chair Horn would not address whether Mowers had approached Sokolich regarding a Christie endorsement. Nor would she say what she knows about his role in the matter.”

**Nashua Telegraph: NH staff member has connection to Christie scandal**

Kevin Landrigan

“Could the executive director of the New Hampshire Republican State Committee be stuck in the middle of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie’s bridge scandal?…Will Christie interview him? During a two-hour press conference, Christie said he would speak with all senior and campaign staff members with connection to Kelly about their knowledge of the matter.”

**NH Patch: NHGOP Official Has Ties to #Bridgegate Controversy**
Marc Fortier

The Wall Street Journal is reporting that New Hampshire Republican State Committee Executive Director Matt Mowers was the one who asked Fort Lee, New Jersey Mayor Mark Sokolich about endorsing New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie....The issue of whether Sokolich was ever asked to endorse Christie has become a key piece of the so-called “Bridgegate” controversy following the revelation that members of Christie’s staff apparently forced traffic jams in retaliation for the Fort Lee mayor’s refusal to endorse the governor.”

Editorial: How Much Blame Does Christie Get?

Nashua Telegraph

“As abuses of power go, this one deserves to be a unanimous, first-ballot Political Hall of Shame inductee. If it were the plot of a disaster movie, you would dismiss it as too outrageous....Adding to the outrage was the unbridled self-satisfaction and delight exhibited by Christie staffers who were clearly infatuated with their handiwork. Among themselves, they sent text messages mocking Sokolich’s pleas for help in getting students trapped on buses to their schools.”

Mark Halperin: B/c New Hampshire is NH, hounding by @NHDems could actually be 1 of the pressure points that stings @GovChristie LINK
Hi All,

Matt is identified in this Wall Street Journal article as the contact between the Christie campaign and the Fort Lee Mayor.

We are likely to get a number of press calls as a result. Do not discuss this or give any statement of any kind to anyone. All callers should be referred to Ryan Williams.

It could turn out to be a bit of a difficult week ahead of us. Keep your heads down, focus on what you need to get done and as I said, refer any press calls to Ryan.

Thank you all - keep up the great work.

Jennifer

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: "Ryan Williams" <rwilliams@fp1strategies.com>
Date: Jan 12, 2014 11:43 PM
Subject: <no subject>
To: "Jennifer Horn" <jenniferhornh@]
Cc:

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303819704879931689270411116?mod=reno64
wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB100014240527023038197048799316892704111168.html
Bergen Dem mayor reconsidered Christie 2013 endorsement

Mark Bonamo

Politicker NJ

The Democratic mayor of a Bergen County township who endorsed Republican Gov. Chris Christie in the 2013 gubernatorial race has reconsidered his endorsement in light of the Bridgegate scandal.

"If it is proven that the governor had knowledge of this, and let it happen, I would in hindsight not have endorsed him," said River Vale Mayor Joseph Blundo, the first Democratic mayor in Bergen County to endorse Christie during the governor's re-election campaign. "I do believe that would be an abuse of power and playing with lives if it is proven. I'm a businessman, and you as a manager control the culture of your people. Even if [the governor] didn't know, did he create a culture that made people think it was OK to do this? I have a problem with that."

Blundo also noted that Matt Mowers, then Christie's regional campaign director and who was named executive director of the New Hampshire Republican Party the day after Christie's Nov. 5 victory, played a key liaison role in finalizing the endorsement.

Blundo endorsed Christie in August 2013, saying that he was impressed with Christie's leadership in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
can't do your job matt. you're not being transparent

he's always been a snake

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 6:17 PM, Matt Mowers <matthew.mowers@...> wrote:
Just sent to duhaime. So much for my buddy Dennehy who bought me lunch two weeks ago.

On Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 6:15 PM, Ryan Williams <rwilliams.gop@...> wrote:
Please make sure your folks see this so that there is no possible way Dennehy gets hired for Christie in 16.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Ryan Williams <rwilliams.gop@...>
Date: Fri, Jan 17, 2014 at 6:14 PM
Subject: 
To: Jennifer Horn <jenniferhorn@...>, Matt Mowers <matthew.mowers@...>

State GOP executive director subpoenaed in NJ bridge probe
Report: Mowers was first to ask Fort Lee mayor for endorsement
UPDATED 6:08 PM EST Jan 17, 2014

MANCHESTER, N.H. — The bridge scandal involving New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has expanded to the Granite State and the director of the state Republican Party.

Matt Mowers, executive director of the New Hampshire Republican Party, has been subpoenaed by a legislative panel investigating the closure of several lanes of the George Washington Bridge to apparently punish the mayor of Fort Lee, N.J., for not endorsing Christie.

"It's obviously very troubling to us that the executive director of the state party, Matt Mowers, has been entangled in this scandal," said Ray Buckley, chairman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

Mowers has received one of 20 subpoenas related to the investigation, and his specific role in the bridge closure, if any, isn't known. But the appearance of involvement is blood in the water for state Democrats.

"We are obviously troubled and concerned that he could bring some of those tactics to New Hampshire," Buckley said.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Mowers was the first one to reach out for an endorsement from the Fort Lee mayor.

State GOP Chairwoman Jennifer Horn released a statement backing Mowers.

"He has not been accused of any wrongdoing, and there is zero indication that he is in any way connected to the decision to close the bridge lanes," Horn said.

Given Mowers' job of helping the party find success in 2014, even Republican strategists conceded that the longer the bridge scandal investigation drags on, the more shots Mowers and the New Hampshire GOP will take.
"We are not going to know the public answers for a while, so the open and honest part, the transparent part from the GOP is very important, so Matt Mowers has to be very clear and open about what's going on with him to even be able to do his job effectively," said Republican strategist Mike Dennehy.

It's unclear if those who have been issued subpoenas will actually be asked to testify.

News 9's messages for Mowers left at the state Republican offices were not returned Friday. On Thursday night, Mowers said he had no comment.

G. PARTISAN STAFF CONDUCT AND RESOURCES.

31. a. A partisan staff employee may not assign or engage in campaign work on State time. Campaign work is work that does not reasonably and primarily fulfill the employee’s official duties and materially contributes to: (1) a person’s chance of election or reelection to public or party office, or (2) the financial prospects or the electoral advantage of a political party or candidate.

   b. Work that would otherwise be campaign work within the meaning of that term as it is used in subsection a. is not prohibited if: (1) it occurs on rare and isolated occasions; and (2) its performance imposes little or no cost to the State; and (3) it is incidental and subordinate to other work which has a primarily public purpose.

32. Partisan staff employees may engage in campaign work voluntarily whenever they are not present in State facilities or obligated to perform legislative duties.

33. a. No partisan staff employee may use, or make available for use by another, State property or resources in connection with campaign work. No partisan staff employee may use a State resource in connection with the preparation of, securing signatures on, or the filing of petitions.

   b. The use of State property or resources in connection with campaign work should not be prohibited if: (1) it is rare and isolated; and (2) it imposes little or no cost to the State; and (3) it is incidental and subordinate to other work which has a primarily public purpose.

33A. No Legislator or employee of the partisan staff shall use, or make available for use by another, the resources of the State allocated to the partisan staff in connection with the mass distribution to members of the general public of unsolicited written or electronic matter including, but not limited to, a pamphlet, letter, newsletter, advertisement, statement or flyer concerning the activities or opinions of a member of the Legislature which is distributed during a calendar year in which the member mentioned therein will be a candidate at the general election. Nothing in this Joint Rule shall be deemed to prevent the distribution of a press release to the press or follow-up correspondence related to a meeting.

34. a. Partisan staff employees shall receive a copy of the Conflicts of Interest Law (P.L.1971, c.182, C.52:13D-12 et seq.), the Legislative Code of Ethics, the Rules Concerning the Operation, Maintenance and Utilization of the Legislative Information System and the Joint Rules Governing Partisan Staff Conduct.

   b. The Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards shall enforce, interpret and adjudicate alleged violations of these Joint Rules.

   c. A violation of these Joint Rules shall be punishable by reprimand, suspension, dismissal, restitution or if restitution is not ordered, a fine not to exceed $500.